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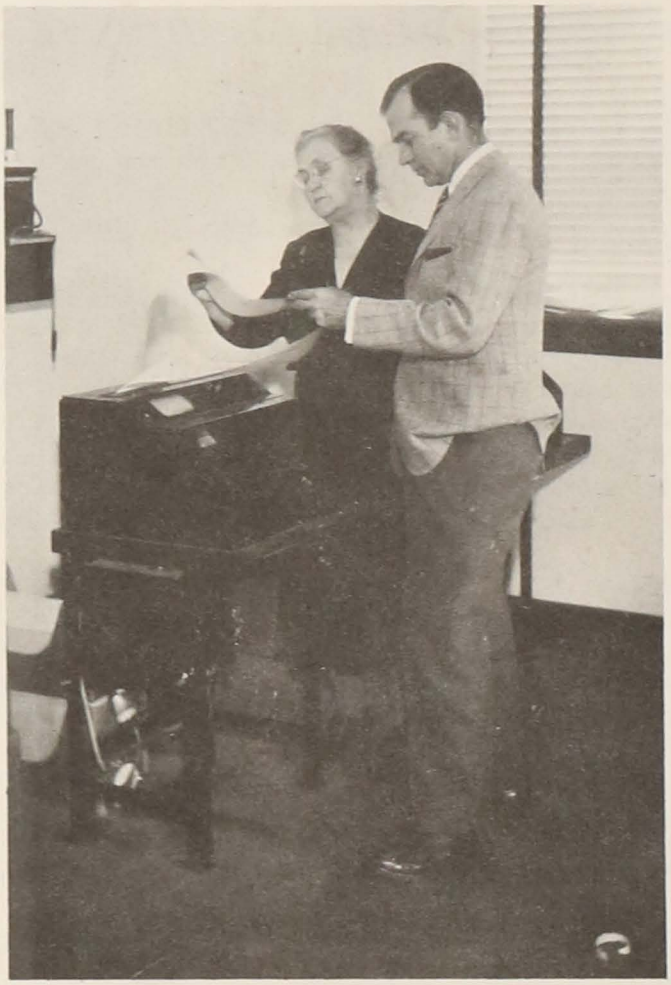

Mrs. Roberta Fulbright and
J. W. "Bill" Fulbright
of the Northwest Arkansas Times.

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A HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PRESS
(from genesis to 1965)

by Thomas Rothrock

(Author's note: This little history of Washington County journalism is presented with the realization that every worthy detail is not recorded and that every statement may not be exactly correct; for available knowledge could not make it that perfect.)

FAYETTEVILLE

The Fayetteville Witness. Published in 1840 by C. F. Town, it was short-lived.

The Western Pioneer. The first issue appeared May 8, 1852. The publisher was William E. Smith who had previously published the Mountaineer at Huntsville, Ark. In 1858 the paper was discontinued. Smith died in Texas in 1864.

The Southwest Independent. Established in 1854 with William E. Quesenbury ("Bill Cush") as editor and publisher. He was a racy and vigorous writer, an accomplished editor, a poet, a humorist, and a fiddler of note. In the Mexican War he had served as a bugler in Company F, First Regiment, Arkansas Mounted Volunteers, under Colonel Archibald Yell. His paper gained no small amount of notoriety; but in 1858 he sold his plant to Wheeler and Sparks who moved the equipment to Fort Smith, and Quesenbury moved to Texas.

The Fayetteville Arkansian. J. R. Pettigrew and E.C. Boudinot established the paper on March 6, 1859. Boudinot was a noted Indian educator, artist and statesman and an early resident of Fayetteville. The paper was a six-column folio, and was conducted with sufficient ability to make it one of the most influential papers in the State outside of Little Rock, and the weekly circulation soon reached 2,000. Such writers as Quesenbury and Washbourne made frequent contributions. The stated objectives of the paper were as follows: "To advocate the principles of the Democratic party, and to stay the onrushing tide of abolitionism, which threatens to overwhelm the South; to advocate the building of a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and to secure its location on or near the 35th parallel, and to promote the cause of educatioN." The Arkansian ceased publication in 1861.

The Northwest Arkansas Times began its existence as The Fayetteville Democrat. According to Fred W.Allsopp's "History of the Arkansas Press for a Hundred Years and More", published in 1922, the birth date of The Fayetteville Democrat was August 10, 1860. According to Mrs.Lessie Stringfellow Read, one-time editor of The Democrat and also of the later Times, the only early copy of the paper now known to be extant is marked Volume One, Number 45, and is dated Thursday, May 30, 1861. Counting back 44 weeks (if no weekly issue was missed) from Number 45, this gives a birth date of Thursday, July 26, 1860. The first publisher and editor was W. W. Moore. His press was destroyed when the Confederates evacuated Fayetteville, and W. W. Moore joined the Confederate Army to serve until the close of the Civil War.

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In 1868 the paper was re-established by W. B. and E. B. Moore, sons of W. W. Moore; the first post-War number being issued July 4, 1868. The Moores conducted the paper until 1884 when it was purchased by Sam E. Marrs and John N. Tillman; the latter later becoming president of the University of Arkansas and still later a member of the United States Congress. Marrs was editor. The Democrat office was located on the south side of the Square in a small one-story frame building, with Fayetteville's other paper of that day, The Sentinel, only a few doors away. The Democrat was a four-page paper with seven columns to the page; and was printed on a Fairhaven cylinder press which not infrequently broke down. Marrs knew nothing of practical newspaper work, and the typographical errors he made and the excuses he made for them, caused considerable amusement among his readers. He was, though, a man with a brilliant mind, of sterling character, and an excellent editorial writer. The printer's devil was 14-year-old John Pleasant Stafford, who was to become a publisher and an editor himself with the first issue of The Springdale News three years later.

A local newspaper woman, Miss Louise Payne, saw the need of a daily paper in Fayetteville, and urged Sam Marrs to allow her to edit and publish a daily edition of The Democrat from his plant. This was in 1893. Marrs consented and for several years Miss Payne published sucha paper, keeping both news and advertising separate from the weekly edition. Following Miss Payne, the daily had several editors and associate editors, among them John Neeley, Leon Smith, Watt Coffey. About 1900, M.W. "Mack" McRoy also became associated with Marrs in the publishing business.

During the years of 1910 and 1911, Sam Marrs' health failed, and in 1913 the plant and two newspapers were purchased by Jay Fulbright who had moved, with his family, to Fayetteville from Missouri in 1906. Fulbright sold an interest to Allen Gates of Little Rock, a graduate of the University of Arkansas class of 1912, who had been on the staff of The Arkansas Democrat of Little Rock. Gates became editor and brought to the paper as associate editor, J. D. Hurst, who, with the exception of a year spent in California and military service in World War I, remained with the paper until 1938, when he resigned to purchase The Progressive Star at Fayetteville.

After several years Gates sold his interest to Dr. Charles Richardson, a Fayetteville dentist and a founder of the University of Arkansas' mother chapter of Chi Omega sorority. Hurst became editor and manager, a position he held until he resigned to volunteer for military service in World War I. Upon his doing this, Mrs. Lessie S. Read became city editor.

Born in Texas, Mrs. Read attended both Leland Stanford University and the University of Arkansas; and joined the staff of The Fayetteville Democrat in 1911 as a reporter. When Hurst returned from World War I, Mrs. Read resigned in his favor to thus enable him to again take up his old post; but Hurst declined and accepted the position of business manager. According to Fred Allsopp's history of Arkansas journalism, the staff of The Fayetteville Daily Democrat in 1922 was Mrs. Lessie S. Read, managing editor; J.D. Hurst, business manager; Dr. Charles Richardson, editorial writer.

Earliest known photo of the Daily Democrat plant. Left to right: Gene Murphy, Clara Kelly, J. D. "Deacon" Hurst and Walker Kelly.

Printers on the Daily Democrat.
Frank Gray, Walter Gray, Tom Feathers, and Calvert.

Jay Fulbright died July 24, 1923; and Roberta Fulbright (his widow) became publisher of The Fayetteville Daily Democrat. Following the death of Dr. Charles Richardson on December 22, 1924, Lessie Stringfellow Read became editor-in-chief; and by 1926 Roberta Fulbright had acquired full interest in the paper.

In the December 1931 issue of The Arkansas Publisher of the Arkansas Press Association, we find the following words penned by the Association's secretary, Clio Harper: "The Fayetteville Daily Democrat is one of the best dailies in the State, outside large cities. It is the only paper in the State with automatic printer service,carrying full leased wire of A P. as well as U.P."

Roberta Fulbright became more and more interested in the field of journalism and by 1933 began writing an influential column under the title of "As I See It", which was credited indirectly with moving son "Bill" from the educational to the political field.

By midsummer 1937, The Fayetteville Daily Democrat had become The Northwest Arkansas Times..The name change was made because of a rapidly spreading circulation through the inauguration of afternoondelivery routes; and because the new name was more representative of the area which the paper served. In 1940 The Times moved from its old site on Fayetteville's "Smoky Row" to a new plant on North East Street.

Lessie Stringfellow Read remained at the editorial post of The Times until late 1938 or early 1939, and then stayed on in other capacities till 1942. Thomas E. Anthony of Macon, Ga., succeeded Mrs. Read as editor in 1939 but remained in Fayetteville only a few months. He, in turn, was succeeded by James Bohart who had joined the staff in 1929 and had begun the paper's first sports section while serving as a reporter. Bohart remained as editor till 1943, when he was succeeded by Sam Schwieger for a quite brief period. On Nov. 7, 1943, Ted R. Wylie took over the editorial duties of The Northwest Arkansas Times and he is at that post now.

Wylie, a native of Arkansas, is a graduate of the School of Journalism, Columbia University, and had worked on several Arkansas papers before coming to Fayetteville. He came from Little Rock where for three years he had been assistant telegraph editor for The Arkansas Gazette; and had been with The Southwest American, Fort Smith, for four years before going to Little Rock.

Besides Wylie, The Arkansas Publisher for October 1945, lists Mrs. Roberta Fulbright as president; Hal Douglas as secretary-treasurer; Sam E. Gearhart as general manager of the Democrat Publishing Company of The Northwest Arkansas Times. In 1957, Sam E. Gearhart served as president of the Arkansas Press Association. Mrs. Roberta Fulbright died in January 1953, and Hal Douglas (her son-in-law) became the publisher. After having been general manager since 1940, Sam E. Gearhart died Sept. 30, 1959, to be succeeded by his son George A. Gearthart,who at the time was managing advertising. Also, at that time, Allan A. Gilbert Jr., was made managing editor, to hold this position until 1965 when he became a daily columnist. Hal Douglas, publisher; Ted.R.Wylie, editor; George A. Gearhart, general manager, comprise the present top echelon of The Northwest Arkansas Times.

The Fayetteville Radical. Established in 1867 by one Brown, an ex-Union soldier, and dubbed a "black Republican sheet."

The Fayetteville Times. Established in 1868 by R.C.Brown, a Democrat. The two Browns were not related. They became involved in a quarrel, then a fight, and the Brown of The Radical was whipped.

The Fayetteville Arkansan. This paper came into being when R.C.Brown changed the name of his Fayetteville Times.

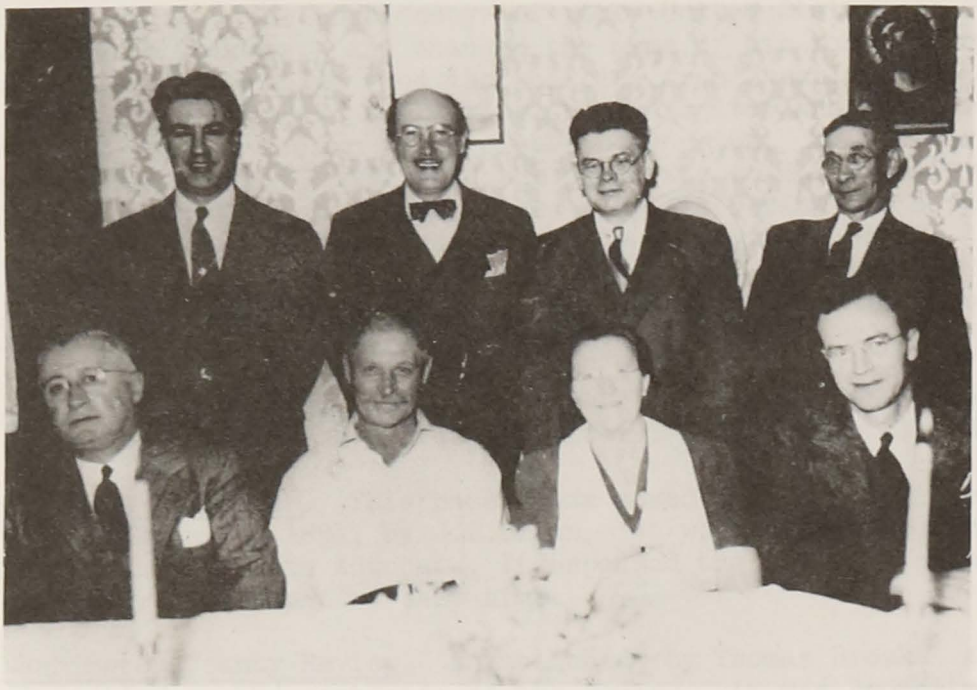
The Fayetteville Mountain Echo. Established when Bard & Richardson purchased The Fayetteville Radical. In May 1869, while Bard was serving as a member of the Arkansas legislature, he employed Arthur F. Morgan to conduct The Mountain Echo while he was absent. Morgan espoused the cause of Republicanism on the editorial page, but in another column waged war on "carpet-baggers". There were many Republican papers in those days, and their chief support was the public printing. Morgan especially criticized John G. Price, the publisher of The Little Rock Republican. Bard was jealous of his standing with "the powers that be" and on his return raised a row with Morgan and sued him. Morgan won the suit when he proved that Bard had told him to "give 'em hell!"

The Fayetteville News. When the Fayetteville Radical became The Mountain Echo, Richardson soon sold his part to one Lindsay, and in 1870 Daniel Webster became the proprietor of The Mountain Echo; but Colonel Bard had a lien on the plant and, obtaining possession, began the publication of The Fayetteville News which was suspended in 1874. After Bard started The News, Webster obtained new material and continued The Mountain Echo until Jan. 1, 1873.

The Arkansas Sentinel. Founded Sept. 2, 1875 by the Sentinel Publishing Company, with Col. J. R. Pettigrew, one of the founders of the old Arkansian, as editor. Before Pettigrew's death, I.M. Patridge and Hugh F. Reagan became owners. In 1900 they sold the paper to Ed Meritt. On Jan. 1, 1921, after 45 years of influential life, the paper changed its name to The Arkansas American. Within 12 months it became consolidated with The Arkansas Countryman., founded by F.A.Vise in 1921. The proceedings of the Arkansas Press Association for 1896 lists I.M.Patridge of The Sentinel as the first Washington County editor to become president of the Association. Other editors of this paper were J. W. Corley, H.M. Biggers, L.R.Smith, Mrs. R.E.Bradford (nee Miah Meritt), Allen C. Flowers, F.A.Vise.

The Fayetteville Blade.. This was a Greenback organ established in 1880 by John Moore who after two years sold it to F. M. Wolf. Wolf changed the name and politics of the paper and published for six months a Republican sheet named The Times.

The Fayetteville Republican. Established in 1885 at West Fork, with Jacob Yoes as publisher and C.S.White as editor. In the summer of 1886 it was purchased by W.M.Simpson who moved the office to Fayetteville. In December 1886 it sold to Thomas Brooks and Damon Clarke. At the time of this sale the paper had a subscription list of about 300; but within a year the circulation had risen to 1,500 copies weekly.In 1888 the paper was purchased by D.C.Ambrose. It became the organ of the Republican party in the Fourth Congressional District and, as such, it



Democrat party at the Morsani Home in Tontitown.
Recognizable are Jim Bohart, Hugh Sowder, Gene Murphy, Sam Gearhart and Floyd Elliott. And the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Morsani.

Staff photo outside the Northwest Arkansas Times building. Recognizable are Ted Wylie, Sam Gearhart, Tom Feathers, and Misses Smith, Hughes and Jackson.

wielded a decided influence in public affairs. Upon the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for the presidency of the United States in 1912, Ambrose became a Democrat and changed the name of his paper from The Republican to The Republic and its policies from Republican to Democratic. In time his son, R. C. Ambrose, became editor and manager, and conducted a 4-page, 6-column paper of all home print. The father died at Fayetteville, March 8, 1932, and the paper was sold to The Fayetteville Daily Democrat shortly thereafter. The old fellow was a veteran of the Civil War, having seen active service at 16 years of age.

The Fayetteville Evening News. D.C.Ambrose published this paper for several years, then went back to his weekly publication.

The Fayetteville Evening Call. Established in 1885 by T.F.Price with Frank J. Price and Albert H. Price as editors. It was short-lived.

The Alliance Liberator. This paper was moved to Fayetteville from Evansville in December 1891, by J.E.Bryan, at which time the name was changed from The Alliance Advocate. It espoused the farmers' organizations which were prevalent at that time.

The Washington County Review. Established by Thomas Brooks about 1892. Domiciled on the east side of the Square, it was Republican in its politics. In 1913, it was absorbed by D.C.Ambrose and Sun of the Fayetteville Republic.

The Fayetteville Daily. Established in 1894 by Miss Louise Payne. It was run in connection with The Fayetteville Democrat for some years.

The Fayetteville Commoner. Founded and suspended in 1905. And this bit of information seems to be about all that is available.

The Arkansas Countryman. Founded by F.A.Vise in 1921. That year the paper was consolidated with the old Arkansas Sentinel, the name of which had recently been changed to The Arkansas American. At the time of the consolidation, Charles L. Patterson was publisher and F.A. Vise was editor. In 1923, The Countryman was taken over by a corporation known as the Arkansas Countryman Publishing Company with Rufus J. Nelson as editor and C.W.Woods as business manager. Nelson, a graduate of Arkansas and Cornell Universities, entered the journalistic world in 1909 as editor-in-chief of Farm and Ranch of Dallas, Texas. As a resident of Northwest Arkansas, he devoted considerable time to organizing the so-called "Self Help Clubs" which were both popular and beneficial in rural communities during the 1920s. For a time Nelson also published The Countryman, a farm and home monthly; but in 1929 he combined it with the weekly Arkansas Countryman, then an 8-page 6-column paper of all home print. In 1932 Nelson was elected to the Arkansas Legislature as a representative from Washington County. In 1933, his paper carried "The History of Washington County", written by himself. In mid-summer 1934, with Cal White associated with Nelson, The Arkansas Countryman ceased publication to be succeeded by The Progressive Star with E.M. Skaggs as publisher.

The Fayetteville Daily Leader. This paper was established in the autumn of 1929 by Homer H. ("Scotty") Taylor who was born in Fayetteville April 26, 1891. As a lad he worked for D.C.Ambrose of The Fayetteville Evening News and The Fayetteville Republican where he seems to have acquired a lasting love for printer's in. Later he went to Tulsa, Okla., and, for a time, he re-entered the field of journalism with The Leader. The plant was modern with new equipment and the paper was a daily of 6 to 8 pages, served by International News Service and with the best available features. Judge George G. Stockard of VanBuren a Fayetteville native, was The Leader's first editor. The early staff was composed of Robert B. Thomas, city editor; Mrs. Zillah Cross Peel, society editor; Miss Peggy Sue Lighton, staff writer; Roy J. Forrest, sports editor; Cal White, superintendent. Ralph Taylor was business manager and Gus Taylor circulation manager. Judge Stockard died April 27, 1930, and W. J. (Bill) Good, now of the University of Arkansas' Department of Journalism, became acting editor. On Jan. 31, 1931, the Leader suspended publication; and sometime thereafter the plant was shipped to Cushing, Okla., where Taylor owned an interest in a weekly paper. "Scotty" Taylor died in Mineral Wells, Texas, April 18, 1951, just a few days short of his 60th birthdate.

The Cooperative Advertiser. This paper, as the name indicates, was made up largely of advertising, with only a small amount of news. Its short life was in the 1930s, and Cal White seems to have been the editor. At least, we find his name listed (with the name of his paper) in the proceedings of the Arkansas Press Association for the year 1934 as having paid his dues to that organization for that year. He is not listed as a member in any other year.

The Progressive Star. In mid-summer 1934, The Arkansas Countryman ceased to be and became The Progressive Star, with E.M.Skaggs as publisher. By the end of 1935, H.D.Phillips, formerly of the Tracy-Locke-Dawson Advertising Agency of Dallas, Texas, bought the weekly paper. In the spring of 1937, C. (Curt) Lambert, formerly of Rogers, took over the publication of The Progressive Star; and in the same year J.D.Hurst severed his long-time connection with the staff of The Fayetteville Daily Democrat and purchased the paper. The following year he discontinued its publication. J. D. ("Deacon") Hurst died Dec. 6, 1939.

THE FAYETTEVILLE DAILY DEMOCRAT and NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES.

Above: GENE MURPHY, FOREMAN on the Fayetteville daily for 40 years.

At right: Gene Murphy, when he began work on the Daily Democrat 40 years ago.

SPRINGDALE

The Springdale Enterprise was established in 1882 by O. C. Ludwig.

The Springdale Yellow Jacket. H.C.Warner bought The Enterprise and changed the name. It was published only a short time.

The Springdale Journal. Price and Brothers bought The Yellow Jacket and changed the name.

The Springdale News.. Damon Clarke assumed control of The Journal in 1886 and changed the name.

The Springdale Locomotive. Very shortly, Damon Clarke moved to Little Rock and sold The News to J. Van Butler who changed the name. This is probably the same Damon Clarke who in December 1886 purchased an interest in The Fayetteville Republican.

The Springdale News. J. Van Butler sold The Locomotive to John P. Stafford in May 1887, who changed the name.

From the proceedings of the Arkansas Press Association for 1887, we read the following: "Newspapers, change of editors and change of journals are so frequent in Washington County, that it is difficult to keep up with it all."

Stafford was quite young, being not yet 18 years of age, and his entry into the field of journalism was greeted in this manner by The Benton County Journal, published at Bentonville: "The Springdale Locomotive has made its regular monthly change again. This time John P. Stafford is at the helm and will change to the News. We wish the new proprietor success." Stafford's reply to the editor of that now long extinct paper was as follows: "Yes, but she is here now to STAY, and don't you forget it." The News' circulation that first year was 182.

John Pleasant Stafford was born in the tiny northwest Arkansas community of Shiloh, Dec. 4, 1869. When he was only eight months old his father died. Securing a postoffice in 1875, Shiloh became Springdale.

With the home situation as it was and economic conditions as they were, it was necessary that John Stafford go to work at an early age. His first job away from home was on a farm and a summer spent at labor there decided him against being a farmer. He always said that his decision was in no small measure due to an old mule he worked that made for the barn whenever he took the notion into his hard head, taking John and the plow with him.

As a barefoot boy, John learned to set type in the office of Springdale's first newspaper, The Springdale Enterprise, established by O.C. Ludwig in the autumn of 1882. At the age of 14 years, John began working for Sam E. Marrs in Fayetteville who, along with John N. Tillman, had recently purchased The Fayetteville Democrat.

By May 1887, John had made the decision which led him to the publication of a newspaper and he purchased The Springdale Locomotive from J. Van Butler. The fuzzy-cheeked young editor's purchase consisted of a few fonts of type with which to handset the paper; a cheap job press, and an "army press# on which the paper was printed; all set up in an office 14 feet square in a "down-town" frame building. The Springdale Locomotive became The Sprindale News and the first issue appeared May 7, 1887.

On the occasion of the paper's 45th birthday, John P. Stafford had this to relate: "The writer of these lines printed that first issue of the News almost alone and unaided, preparing the copy and setting the type, and, while judged by today's standards, it would not be much of a newspaper, to me it appeared to be a wonderful creation."

When not yet 19 years of age, on Nov. 13, 1888, John P. Stafford married Lena Southwick Claypool who had come from Bowling Green, Kentucky, the previous year with her parents. The bride was 17.

Stafford stood for the Arkansas legislature in 1900, but refused to use his paper to promote his candidacy. His campaign was successful and he was returned for a second term, but nothing or no one could bring him to run for a political office again. "I'd rather run my newspaper", he said, and discuss the other fellow in his job than be the one cussed." By 1902, the circulation of The News had grown to 1,600 and the masthead of the 8-page edition carried as its motto "The largest circulation of any paper in Washington County."

Lena Claypool Stafford died in 1902; and in 1904 John Married Marion Myrtle Murphy, a popular school teacher who had come to Springdale from Mineral Wells, Texas. The year following this second marriage,the Springdale News moved to its present location on Emma Avenue.

Once during the "Gay Nineties", John Stafford sold The Springdale News and moved to Rogers, Ark.; but quickly returned to Springdale and The News. once during his second marriage, he placed an advertisement in Editor and Publisher for the sale of his paper, then made a trip to Altus, Okla., with the idea of acquiring a paper there. Upon his return the advertisement for the sale of The Springdale News was withdrawn. The years passed, and a gasoline "one-lunger" replaced foot power for the presses. Later came electricity and the bark of the engine was replaced by the hum of a motor.

Through storm and sunshine, through drought and abundance, John P. Stafford maintained a firm grip on the helm of The News until 1929 when on Feb. 12 of that year he announced that his son Raymond, known to many as "Marty", had acquired an interest in the paper and would henceforth be an associate editor. John P. Stafford's most active years were over. He did, however, serve as president of the Arkansas Press Association in 1930.

At left: Lessie Stringfellow Read, who was for 27 years the editor of the Fayetteville Daily Democrat and the Northwest Arkansas Times. The other lady is Mrs. Feathers, her constant companion. The ladies are wearing "Murphy Day" badges, on the occasion of the retirement party given Gene Murphy after 40 years of service on the Fayetteville daily.

Through the medium of his paper, he had battled for what was good for Springdale. He himself said, "I have always advocated those things which I thought were for the best, and while many may have disagreed with me at times, I believe all have credited me with an honest purpose." "Never use the columns of the paper to vent personal spite", was always a principle of his journalistic work.

He valued his country correspondents highly, calling them "the real editors of the News." At one time 60 rural sections were represented and no item was unimportant.

He never permitted an anniversary of the establishment of his paper to pass without writing an anniversary editorial. In the May 4, 1933 issue appeared the last one he was to write and in it were the following words: "This year The News starts upon its 47th year. Holding to the best traditions of the past, and looking hopefully to the future, the News dedicates itself anew to the unselfish service of the people of this community."

He passed away Sept. 24, 1933, only a short distance from where he was born, and his son Edward Raymond, or Marty, became editor and publisher of The News. During the 1930s and 1940s, Marty suffered an illness which lasted almost eight years and through these years his wife, Glaphyra or "Bucket", carried on, being assisted by Mrs. John P. or Myrtle Stafford. As an editor, Marty spared no effort in his promotion of the city of Springdale and the surrounding area. Other members of the Stafford family were associated with The News through the years in responsible positions. Guy C., eldest son by the first marriage, was an associate editor in the years immediately preceding America's entry into World War I. Ellis Murphy Stafford, the son of the second family, was an associate editor from 1949 to 1955 and conducted a popular column known as the "Rural Rambler".

During the World War II years and those which followed, Springdale began an era of vigorous growth. Although earlier attempts to make the weekly News a twice-a-week paper had been unsuccessful, it now became feasible to issue a three-day paper in 1948 and a five-day paperin 1949, Monday through Friday. A modern press was installed. The circulation had risen to 3,300 and carrier boys delivered the paper to all subscribers within the city limits.

And, by now, it is high time to introduce the Sanders family from Texas. R.R."Bob" Sanders who spent his prep-school days in the south Texas town of Taft, joined the staff of The News on June 1, 1946, as general manager. Two years later he purchased an interest in the paper.

In February 1950, the owners of The News formed a corporation known as The Springdale News, Inc., an Arkansas corporation. A majority of the stock was owned by Edward R. Stafford and wife; with a minority interest held by Bob Sanders and Ellis M. Stafford. In 1955 the latter sold his stock to Bob Sanders and Miss Maudine Farish. Maudine (now Mrs. T.C.Sanders) had joined The News staff in 1948 as a bookkeeper.

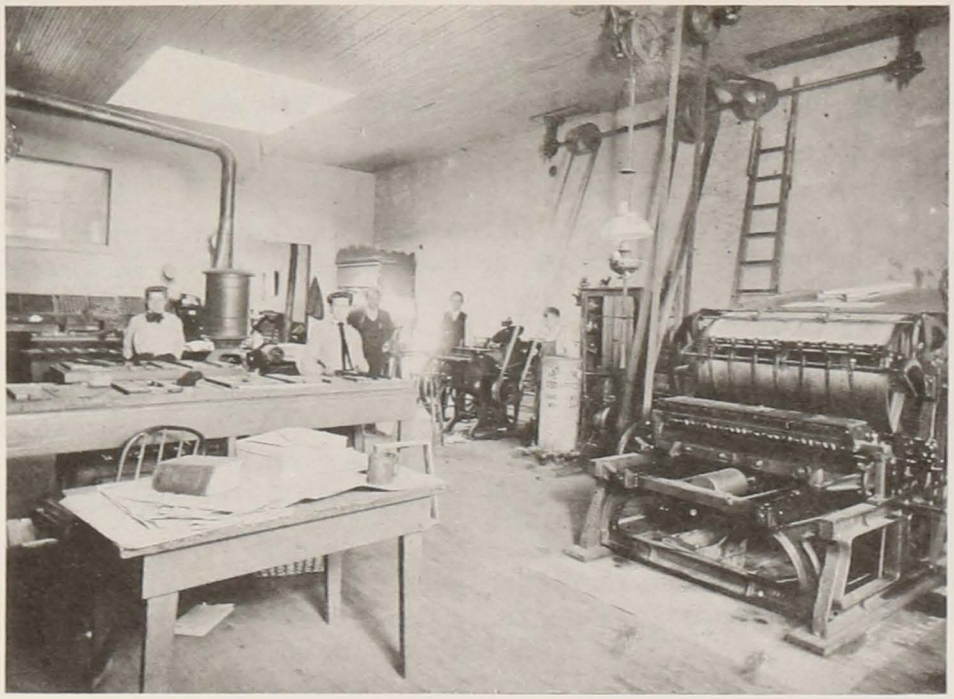
On March 20, 1957, they had to write "30" for Marty Stafford. On May 1, 1957, Glaphyra Stafford called a meeting of the board of directors of the Springdale News, and R.R."Bob" Sanders was elected editor. Bob became known as "Springdalia" because of a column he wrote by that title. The year that Marty died, The News' home was considerably enlarged and remodeled; and by the year's end the Circulation had reached 3,900.

After many years of hard work with The News, Glaphyra Stafford retired in June 1958, her stock being purchased by Bob Sanders and Maudine Farish. That year a brother of Bob's, T.C.Sanders, joined the staff of The News. On July 4,1962, another brother, Charles E. Sanders was added to the staff.

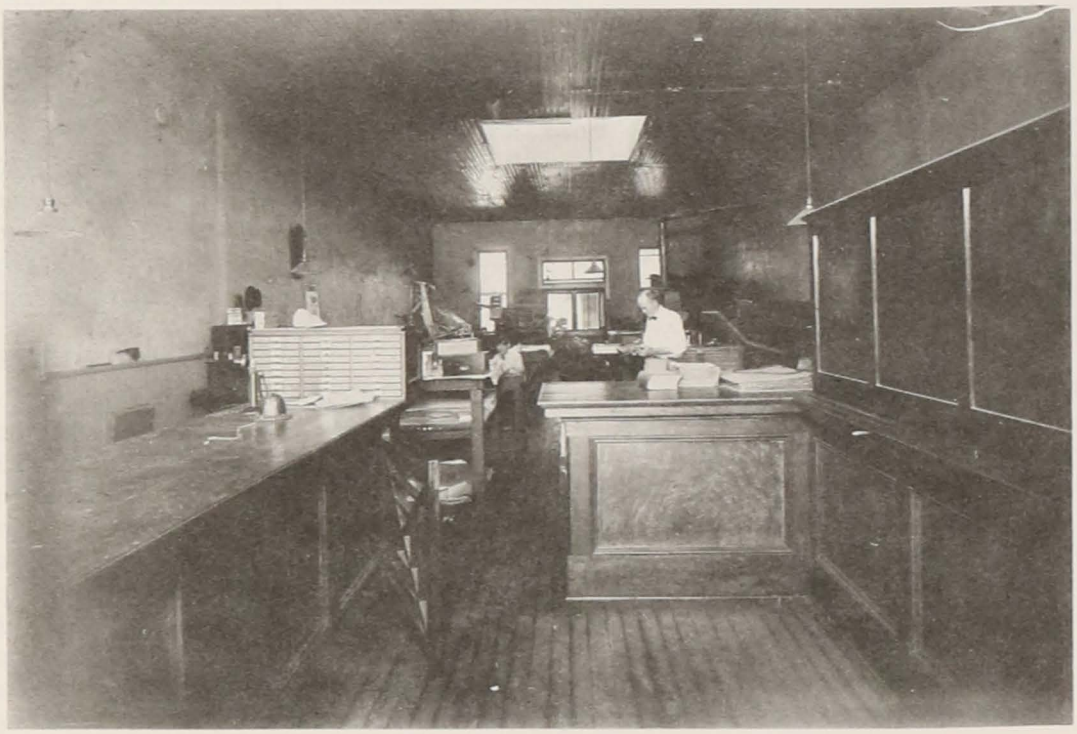
In October 1963, Bob Sanders and his wife (who had been an associate editor) retired; and their stock was purchased by T. C. Sanders, Mrs. T. C. (Maudine) Sanders, and Charles E. Sanders. At that time the organization's name was changed from The Springdale News, Inc., to The Springdale Publishing Company. By December 1963, The News became the first offset paper in the county and one of the first in the State.

The present staff of The Springdale News includes the following personnel: T.C.Sanders, Publisher: Charles E. Sanders, editor and general manager; Mrs. T.C. (Maudine) Sanders, associate editor; Jim Morriss, managing editor. The latter commenced working for The News as a youngster; washing windows, sweeping floors, carrying papers. His part-time work for the paper went on through high school and college days. His education as a journalism major at the University of Arkansas completed, Jim began full-time work for The News, first as sports editor, and then, from 1961, as managing editor.

The Springdale Democrat. Established by Erwin Charles Funk with his father, Emanuel M. Funk, in 1896. In November of that year the Funks moved to Rogers, Ark., and bought The Rogers Weekly Democrat. Besides being editor of the short-lived Springdale Democrat, Erwin Funk was managing editor of The Fayetteville Daily Leader for a brief period in 1931. He and his father came to Arkansas from Iowa in April, 1896. In 1925 he served as president of the Arkansas Press Association; and we have listed him as one of the Washington County journalists who served as president of the state organization because he was a Washington county editor, albeit briefly, twice. In 1928, Erwin Funk was elected to the presidency of the National Editorial Association, the second president to come from Arkansas. He died at his home in Rogers, Feb.1, 1960, at the age of 83 years.



Early photo of back shop of Springdale News.
Misses McQuaid and Diley and Messrs. Stafford and Phillips.



John P. Stafford and his News Office

CANE HILL

The Bugle was being published by a man named Thomas in 1885.

The Cane Hill News was suspended in 1905 after having been published only a short time.

CINCINNATI

The Cincinnati Argus was started in 1897 by Edmiston and Sun (Jack and Edgar). It lasted only a year or so when it was moved -- probably to Westville, Okla.

EVANSVILLE

The Alliance Advocate was started in 1891 by G. H. Alexander, but it was moved to Fayetteville in December 1891 when J.E.Bryan assumed control and changed the name to Tje Alliance Liberator. It espoused the farmers' organizations which were prevalent at that time.

LINCOLN

The Lincoln Banner, with George and Walter Barnes as editors, was started in the quite early 1900s. A definite date is not now known. George Barnes was still editor in 1910.

Subsequently the paper was named The Lincoln Herald, The Lincoln Sun, with Robert H. Corley as editor during the WorldWar I era; and finally The Lincoln Leader, its present name. Other editors through the years were William Penn; Wicks; Guy Tweedi; Jack and Forrest Cosby; C.H.Smith, his wife and son, Walter; Tom West for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years before the paper was purchased in 1942 by George Wiswell Sr.; and then the present editors and publishers, Melvin and Margaret Kendall, who took over the paper in 1950.

Mrs. C. H. Smith, a native of Iowa, came to Arkansas in October 1925 and after the death of her husband, April 10, 1927, took charge of the paper.

The Kendalls, both Missouri natives, came to the Lincoln Area in 1942 from Kansas City, Kans. to farm. After service in the navy during World War II by Melvin and an interval in Colorado, they returned to northwest Arkansas in 1947, when Melvin was employed as a printer in Prairie Grove. As already stated, the Kendalls took over theLincoln Leader in 1950. He died Oct. 16, 1965.

PRAIRIE GROVE

The Prairie Grove News was established by Joseph Garrison in 1885, and published as a weekly for about a year. Dr. E. G. McCormick was a silent partner of Joseph Garrison in the establishment of The Prairie Grove News - silent because of his profession. The paper was published in a frame building, located on the south side of the main street (now Buchanan) near where the Sterling Drug Store is located at present. Equipment was bought in Benton County and was stored at Viney Grove until the location of the proposed railroad could be learned; for there was a question asto whether it would go through Viney Grove orPrairie Grove. The equipment consisted of several cases of type and a Proudy cylinder press, called the Grasshopper, which was turned by hand.

The Prairie Grove Banner was born in April 1887. It was published in a log building about 12 feet by 12 feet, and the equipment of The Prairiric Grove News was used. Published each Friday, the circulation was around 50 copies. The masthead of The Banner carried the names of Butler and Butler. They were H. Milton Butler, an Arkansan, and W. N. Butler, a native of Shelbyville, Tenn. They were not related. Misses Eula and Virginia Butler, now living in the old home on North Mock Street, have some copies of The Banner published by their father, W.N. Butler, who owned a general merchandise store in addition to the printing business. John L. Riddle of The Southwest American, Fort Smith, is a grandson of the late W.N.Butler. The late Mel M. Collier, the father of the present Morris Collier of Fayetteville, was the printer's devil.

The Rising Sun was published in 1887 by a man named Brassfield as a competitor to The Banner. It was located in a building about where the Oklahoma Tire and Supply Company is now. The story goes that Brassfield borrowed money from J. Ed Rogers and that Rogers took the paper for the debt and sold it to a man named Green who sold it to the Banner. J. Ed Rogers lives on North Mock Street, about one block south of the old Butler home.

The Prairie Grove Record, owned by R. G. Bradfield, it was published in 1896, replacing the Banner.

The Prairie Grove Herald succeeded The Record in 1900. It was published by M. L. Hilderbrand, a native of Virginia. In the early 1920s Mrs. Katherine Tallman of Gentry bought The Herald from Hilderbrand, and was assisted in the publication by Hugh Park, now editor of the Van Buren Press-Argus. In 1926 Mrs. J.W. (Joy) Webb, a native of Tennessee who came to Arkansas in 1914, bought The Herald from Mrs.Tallman. A Model Z Intertype, the first type-setting machine to be used in Prairie Grove, was installed, as well as an electric motor which powered the Proudy cylinder press and a small job press. The motor shaft was long, with pulleys running off for each machine. Roy G. Nixon, a Springdale photographer now, assisted Mrs.Webb with the publication.

The Prairie Grove Leader, a free-circulation paper, was published a short time by Roy G. Nixon, when the Fayetteville Daily Democrat purchased The Herald's subscription list from Mrs. Webb, Oct. 4, 1932.

THe Prairie Grove Enterprise made its initial appearance on Nov. 19, 1936, shortly after the plant of The Herald had been purchased from Mrs. J.W.Webb by George Wiswell Sr.and G.E.Wiswell Jr., father and son. In February 1965, The Enterprise was sold to the Tri-State Publishers, Incorporated, of Springdale; and on March 1, 1965, the corporation's president, James M. Edgmon, assumed management as both editor and publisher. The Wiswells had added many new features and had replaced all old equipment, making this one of the best equipped shops in a town of this size in theState.

John P. Stafford and Staff
in front of Springdale News building

WESR FORK

The West Fork Republican was published in 1885 by Jacob Yoes, with G.S.White as editor. White was a teacher, the county examiner of public instruction, and a justice of the peace. Subscription price was $1 per year. The paper was purchased by W. M. Simpson who moved both the paper and the plant to Fayetteville in the summer of 1886, to be resold to Thomas Brooks and Damon Clarke by the end of the year.

The West Fork Sun was a weekly published on Saturdays in 1910m with the June 11th issue being the seventh and the last issue. Subscription price was $1 per year. It was a quite small paper and an extant copy reveals no hint as to the editor.

The West Fork News was published by John P. Stafford of The Springdale News. The first issue came out June 6, 1913, and the last on December 27, 1913.

WINSLOW

The Winslow American was established in 1908 by G.N. Duncan who died on Armistice Day, 1918. For 39 years thereafter, his widow, Maud Duncan, edited the weekly American with virtually no assistance. Less than 5 feet tall, she did all the newswriting, all the ad selling, handset all copy, printed the paper on a foot-powered job press and acted as her own "carrier boy". Hers was one of the last handset newspapers and on the mountain above Winslow there is a museum to her memory.

"Miss Maud" was the daughter of Dr.Albert and Virginia Cabell Spring Dunlap and was born on her grandfather's farm in Washington County, Ark. She aided her father, a physician, learning to fill prescriptions, and, after his death, was Winslow's pharmacist for a number of years. She married and had two daughters, both of whom died in infancy, and her first husband died before she was 30 years of age. In 1908she married G. N. Duncan who established the weekly American. At the 75th Mid-Winter Meeting of the Arkansas press Association in Little Rock in January 1947, Miss Maud was honored with a certificate of life membership; and on Sunday, July 12, 1953, she received the "Distinguished Citizen" award from the Washington County Historical Society at a Mount Gayler meeting. She died in a Fayetteville convalescent home on Jan. 21, 1958, following an illness of several months. She was 84 years of age and left but one survivor - a nephew in Dallas, Tex.

WASHINGTON COUNTY in the
ARKANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Arkansas Press Association was born Oct. 15, 1873, when twenty newsmen gathered in the Chamber of Commerce in Little Rock. We will give here the names of Washington County journalists who have been president of the A.P.A. Erwin Funk of Rogers is included because he was a Washington County editor, twice, albeit briefly - in 1896 and in 1931.

I. M. Patridge, The Arkansas Sentinel, Fayetteville. 1896
Erwin Funk, The Rogers Democrat, Rogers. 1925
John P. Stafford, The Springdale News, Springdale. 1930
Sam Gearhart, Northwest Arkansas Times, Fayetteville. 1957

We will also give the names of Washington County journalists who were members of the A.P.A. as recorded in the proceedings of the Association. Not all copies of these proceedings are available, and they were apparently discontinued in 1935, their place being taken by the Association's "Arkansas Publisher", which did not list the names of individual members.

1884 -- J.W.Corley, Sentinel, Fayetteville. A.B.Moore and E.B.Moore, Democrat, Fayetteville. H.C.Warner, Yellow Jacket, Springdale.

1887 -- Damon Clarke, Republican, Fayetteville. I.M. Patridge, Sentinel, Fayetteville.

1893 -- H. M. Butler, Banner, Prairie Grove. I. M. Patridge and H.F. Reagan, Sentinel, Fayetteville.

1904 -- Miss Miah M. Merritt, Sentinel, Fayetteville. J.P.Stafford, News, Springdale.

1907 -- J. P. Stafford, News, Springdale. Miss Miah M. Merritt, Sentinel, Fayetteville.

1913 -- John P. Stafford, News, Springdale.

1915 -- G. N. Duncan, American, Winslow.

1916 -- G.N.Duncan, American, Winslow. David A. Gates Jr., Democrat, Fayetteville. Leon R. Smith, Arkansas Sentinel, Fayetteville. Guy C. Stafford, News, Springdale.

1917 -- G.N.Duncan, American, Winslow. David Allen Gates Jr., Democrat, Fayetteville. Leon R. Smith, Sentinel, Fayetteville. Guy Stafford, News, Springdale.

1921 -- Bert C. Riley (?), Fayetteville. C. Richardson, Democrat, Fayetteville. F. A. Vise, Arkansas Countryman, Fayetteville.

1923 -- Guy C. Stafford, News, Springdale.

1924 -- Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. Gus M. Oehm, Cooperator, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale. Charles Richardson (deceased), Democrat, Fayetteville.

1925 -- Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. Gus M. Oehm, Cooperator, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale.

1926 -- Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. Gus M. Oehm, Cooperator, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale.

1928 -- R.C.Ambrose, Republic, Fayetteville. Rufus J.Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. Kenneth B. Roy, Extension Cooperator, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale. Marion Wasson (associate), Fayetteville. Mrs. J. W. Webb, Herald, Prairie Grove.

1929 -- R.C.Ambrose, Republic, Fayetteville. Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. Mrs.L.S.Read, Democrat, Fayetteville. Kenneth B. Roy, Extnsion Cooperator, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale. Marion Wasson, Fayetteville. Mrs.J.W.Webb, Prairie Grove.

1930 -- R.C.Ambrose, Republic, Fayetteville. Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. Mrs. L.S.Read, Democrat, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale. H.H.Taylor, Leader, Fayetteville Mrs. J.W. Webb, Herald, Prairie Grove.

1931 -- Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale.

1932 -- Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale.

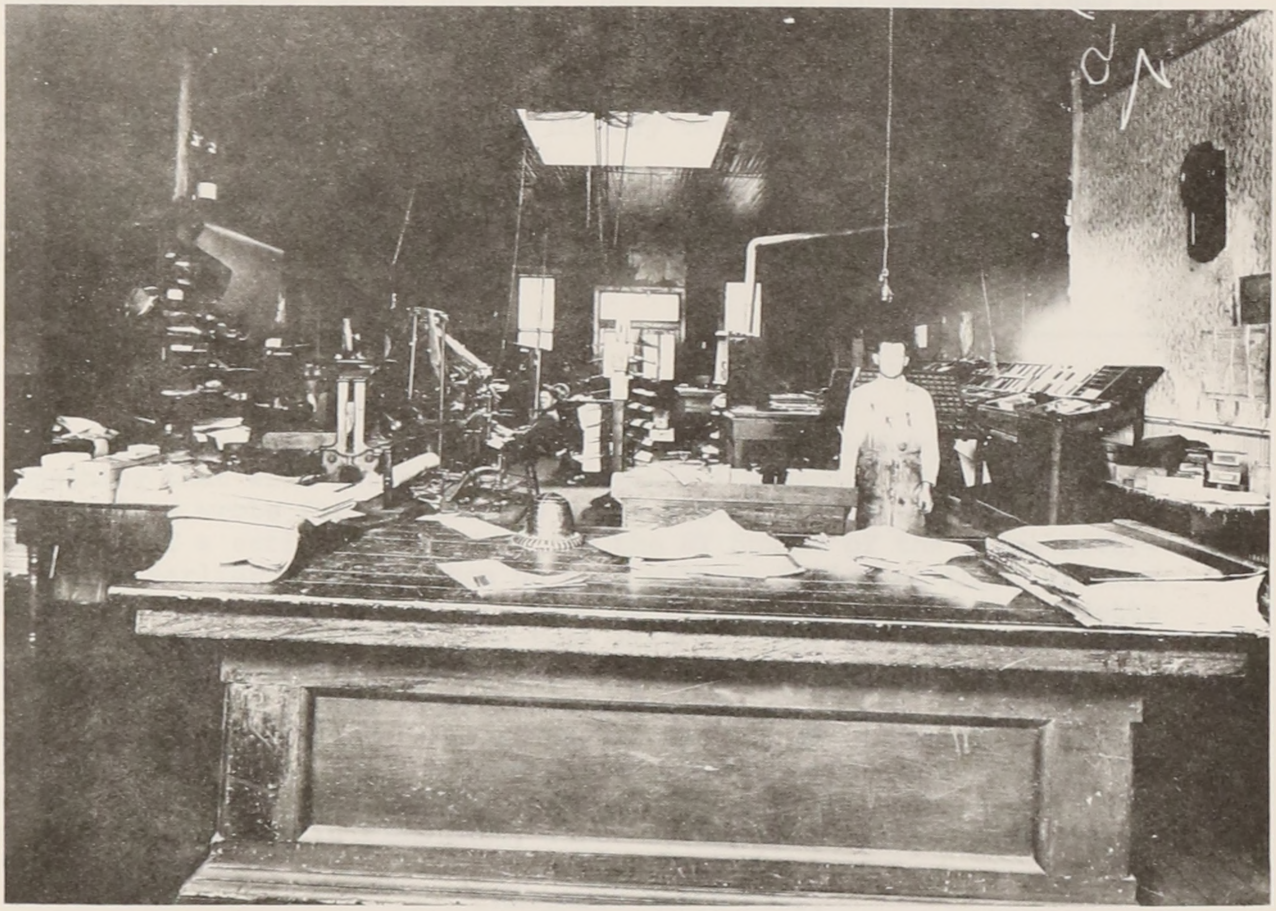
1933 -- Rufus J. Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. John P. Stafford, News, Springdale.

1934 -- Mrs. Maud Duncan, American, Winslow. R.J.Nelson, Countryman, Fayetteville. E.R.Stafford, News, Springdale. C.L.White, Cooperative Advertiser, Fayetteville.

1935 -- Mrs. Maud Duncan, American, Winslow; Mrs. L. S. Read, Daily Democrat, Fayetteville; E. R. Stafford, News, Springdale.

E. R. "Marty" Stafford
Editor 1933-1941

George Sanders
Editor 1966



The Springdale News in the Early Days

As has been stated previously, not all of the yearly publications recording the proceedings of the Arkansas Press Association are to be had; and in those which are available the record of members does not always show any from Washington County. In the proceedings for the year 1917 there is, though, an interesting account of a tour of Washington County by Association members which we will give here in condensed form.

The first stop was at Winslow which was proclaimed to be one of the most delightfuh summer resorts in the State. The scenic view from the hotel and lodges on the crest of the mountain rivaled the splendor of the Rockies. Arriving at Fayetteville, that beautiful metropolis of Northwest Arkansas, the tour members went to theUniversity of Arkansas campus where a banquet was served them in Hill Hall. F.S.Root, superintendent of Fayetteville schools, delivered an address concerning the part that newspapers must play in the war just entered. A similar talk was given by the Rev.W.E.Boggs ofthe Central Methodist Church. Dressed in a costume representing Satan, editor Ambrose of The Fayetteville Republic predicted dire calamities for those editors who dared work for the removal of the University from Fayetteville. At Springdale, tour members were met by a delegation of citizens with more than 75 "autos", and taken on a more than 30 mile drive through orchards, vineyards, and berry fields. Returning to Springdale's City Park, the journalists were served delicious berries and real cream. It was stated that the orchards were loaded with fruit.

"The Arkansas Publisher",a monthly publication by the Arkansas Press Association which, in time, seems to have pushed the Association's annual proceedings out of the way, has two quite interesting items in the October 1928 issue, which we will give here:

"'100 Years of Fayetteville', a book, has been published by William S. Campbell of Fayetteville. The history covers the period 1828-1928."

"Walter J. Lemke, a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, Chicago, is the new director of the Department of Journalism at the University of Arkansas."

NOTE FROM GAZETTE HISTORIAN

This weekend while slaving over a hot microfilm reader, I ran across something that will interest you. Remember the series of reminiscences Fent Noland wrote for the Gazette shortly before he died? They were a revision of a series he had done for the NY Spirit of the Times several years earlier. Well, when he died without finishing them, William Quesenbury decided to try his hand at it. They were in the Gazette rather irregularly, whenever he felt like it. Your Bill Cush put words together mighty pretty, but it took him reams to say anything. So far I have found and copied four of his articles, all long. The first one was about the Lovely Purchase; the second was about Samuel Carnahan; the third was about Capt. Bill McGarrah; the fourth was about Maj. Jim Ball. When I have all of them, I'll make you a copy. I think you could use these sketches in Flashback, since so far they are all about Washington County.

Margaret Smith Ross,
Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE IN 1870

A public sale of the personal property from the David W. Williams estate brought in $1,123.85 on Jan. 8, 1870, according to the administrator's detailed report filed with the county clerk of Washington County, Ark. A committee appraisal set a value of $1,084.50 on this property on Jan. 1, 1870, a figure remarkably close to the actual sale total.

This bit of near century-old history is (of all places!) bound into Marriage Book E, along with about 90 pages of estate records, probably an error made when the old county records were repaired at the bindery. Nevertheless, this report gives an insight into the nature of personal possessions and property values of the time.

The names of the buyers are among those who helped develop Washington County, and whose very names are a part of our history. Such names for example are Mankins, Lewis, Harris, Strain, Maguire, Enyart, Carter, Williams, Trammel and Williford. Thomas Carter was a frequent bidder at this 1870 sale, and bought the highest-priced offering -- a gray horse, for $110. He also bought a beehive at the bargain price of 10 cents. Perhaps the biggest bargain went to W.Strain: "One set of silver spoons for the sum of 5¢." Sales included a straw bedtick for $1, a quilt for 60 ¢; the bedstead itself brought $3.25, but the feather bed was bid in for $20.

Hundreds of items were put up for sale, many of them the traditional "items too numerous to mention", and the great bulk of the property went for extremely low prices -- or so it seems to us now. Most were under $10; many less than $1; and very few at more than $50. But the total, as reported, was well over $1,100. Besides the typical items listed here, the sale included many other pieces from bedding and kitchen tools to shop tools and farming implements, grain, livestock, potatoes, and animal hides.

Here are typical sales selected from the longer list:

Side of sole leather	$1.75	Bull tongue plow	$2.50
Scythe and cradle	2.00	Broad axe	2.00
Shaving horse	1.20	Sack salt	4.00
Chopping ax	1.50	Heifers	6.80
Curry comb	.25	9 sheep	13.00
Iron wedge	.50	Ox waggon	28.00
Log chain	2.00	Pair Oxen	80.50
Pitchfork	.50	Shot gun	4.75
50 bushels corn	34.85	Box of tobacco	5.50
Loom	7.00	Lot sundires	.10
Pot	.30	Bee gum	1.75
Conk shell	.50	Wawful iron	.60

The David Williams estate report occupied several pages of handwritten entries, many in great detail, with ample certification and recording. Included were: Inventory, appraisal, sale listing, real estate, and accounts receivable.

-- Deane G. Carter

NAMES AND EVENTS FROM THE OLD COURT RECORDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

by Lloyd McConnell, Circuit Clerk

November 1841, John Work, charged with murder, was tried before jury composed of Ezekiel Lane, Dickson Spears, George McGarrah, James Erwin, Audley Maxwell, Robert Keith and William H. Henderson. The jury found him guilty of excusable homicide and he was held on an assault and battery charge with bond at $750. At the next term of court, he was found not guilty.

Young Bird, a Cherokee, was charged with horse stealing and was tried before John Holt, John Johnson, William Wilson, William Shores, Alexander Denny, James D. Putman and William Bloyed, David Harrah, George W. Hmpton, Samuel D. Wilson as the jury and was found guilty. His punishment was fixed at five years at hard labor in the Arkansas Penitentiary. David Walker and George W. Paschall were appointed by the court as attorneys to represent him.

Sam, a negro slave, the property of John Ballard, managed to get a hung jury in his trial for rape. Sam was transferred to Madison County for trial because of prejudice among the citizens of Washington Co.

Tannah, an Indian charged with murder, after having been convicted, received a second trial and was found not guilty. He probably lost no time getting back to the Indian Territory. His jury included John Mills, Henry Wilson, William Farman, John Risley, Samuel Murray, William Mayfield, Berry D. Graham, John Jones, Enos Mills, Ephraim Cates, George Clyne and Audley Maxwell.

The May 1842 Grand Jury included John Cole as foreman, Eli Bloyed, Samuel McCurdy, Ebenezer Crawford, John Ish, George W. Cline, William McGarrah, Jacob Oxford, Leonard Shuler, William Reed, Rial Williams, Ebenezer Millard, William L. Crawford, George W. Kinchelow, David Williford and Jarrett Wood.

Sylvanus Blackburn, an early settler of War Eagle community, was fined for not attending as grand juryman, and John McGarrah was fined the same amount, $10, for failure to report for jury duty.

William Cornelius was acquitted of horse stealing. A special term of court was called in August 1842, to try Charles F. Battease, Nelson Hackett and Sam, the negro. The Grand Jury at this term included: Wm. R. Woodruff, Samuel Alexander, Jacob Oxford, Alexander Yell, Wm. M. Towen, John Conner, Moses Stout, William Crawford, onesimus evans, John Lewis, John Rieff, George Pettigrew, James Anderson, Alexander Denny, Daniel W. Dorris.

Battease, charged with larceny, was acquitted; and Nelson H. Hackett, charged with grand larceny, was sentenced to 20 lashes and to stand in the pillory for one hour. (Come to think of it, 20 lashes in front of the courthouse might help to cure some adult delinquency around town, in 1966 -- L.McC)

The Grand Jury, at regular November 1842 term of Circuit Court, was composed of John T. Edmiston, Jesse Goddard, John V. Gray, Isaac Buchanan, Charles I. Severs, Samuel Carmichael, John C. Ferguson, James M. Williams, James Marrs, George Carrothers, John Riggins, Isaac P. Spender, Allen Woods, Jacob Shaver, and James P. Simpson.

James Smith and Titus Smith were charged with shooting to kill. Ebenezer Hanna and John Taylor were charged with assault and battery. The petit jury was composed of John Rizley, Alexander Buchanan, James Mitchell, William West, Oliver Spencer, Allen Dupree, Thomas B. Ballard, Wm. D. Shores, James S. Huckill, John Conner, Larkin Nolll, James Herndon, James Johnson, George Lewis. David Walker and John Taylor were up for assault and battery.

A jury trying Francis Smith for assault to kill fined him one dollar and one hour in jail. The jury included William McGarrah, R. Tittle, John Greenway, Allen Dupriest, Michael Linebarger, John Latta, Willis Newby, Thomas Tennant, David Bixby, Z.W.Hampton, Arthur Dillingham and James Oxford.

Another jury tried John C. Smith and sentenced him to five years in the jail and penitentiary house at hard labor and ordered that he be confined in a solitary cell therein. This jury included John Neill, Wesley Stone, Daniel Banford, Elijah Dodd, Thillis Boyd, Isham Brisco, William Boyd, William Holt, Jos. Fletcher, John Fletcher, Thomas Caldwell and Alexander Neill.

From a reading of the court records it is reflected that grand jury indictments were returned against offenders, who then appeared before the court and made a bond, and the cause was frequently continued to the next term of court. In the interim the tempers cooled, influential contacts were made, and by trial time at the next term of court, the penalty was much lighter.

November 1842: And now on this day came Henry Snider, who beging duly sworn according to law says he was born in the year of our Lord 1818 in the county of Helsfield, under the Government of Louis the Second, Duke of Hesse Doomstald, when he emigrated in the year 1834 and selected the State of Arkansas as the place of intended settlement,and forever renounced all obligance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever and particularly to Louis the Second, Duke of Hesse Doomstald. He further states that he has never borne any hereditary title or any of the orders of nobility. His affidavits were signed by William Skelton and Thomas Outzen.

May 1843: IN MEMORIUM. On motion of S.G.Sneed Esq., one of the members of the Bar of the Washington County Court, resolved that the following resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Court, which are as follows, to-wit:

"Resolved that the members of this bar and the officers of the Court with sensibility feel the loss to the profession and to society sustained by the death of Andrew Campbell, Esq.

"Resolved that we entertain profound respect for the professional energy of the deceased, for his perseverance in life and for the many amiable and excellent qualities belonging to him as a man, and we do hereby tender to his surviving relatives our condolence and sympathy for the loss they have sustained and that we will wear the usual badge as a testimony of respect for thirty days....."

The Grand Jury for November 1843 included Robert Parks, Richard Dye, Henry Gregg, Robert Garrett, Samuel Marrs, Peter mankins Jr., Thomas Fine, William Cunningham, John Oliver, Robert Buchanan, Leander Buchanan, Gilbert Luper, George Gibson, James Lynch, John Ferguson, Jacob Oxford. The petit jury seated Thomas Ballard, Beauford Smith, Abner Davidson, Jacob Cartwright, Russell Bates, James Lareby, James Mitchell, Ephraim Cate, Aaron Lockhart, George Lewis, Richard Phillin, M.B. Smith. (A case of the State of Arkansas vs. James Lareby was continued to the next term, Mr. Lareby being a member of the jury sitting in the box.

Fines for assault and battery were upped to $10, as shown by commitments issued against Matthew Leeper, John Taylor, Henry Robbins, and others. Samuel Blake a subject of Queen Victoria of Great Britain, applied for citizenship. Bond for Samuel Durham was fixed at $300 on a murder charge. Arthur Young also was charged with a killing.

EDITOR'S REPORT FOR 1965

During the past year we published five issues of Flashback and two booklets (History of the Winslow Methodist Church and History of the McIlroy Bank).

What made the work more enjoyable was the fact that we have a number of contributors who write well. Among them are the McConnells -- Lloyd who is doing a splendid job of research in the old court records, and Frank McConnell, who, although bedridden, has a real flair for historical writing. Other contributors of material were Mrs.Payne of Lincoln, Mrs. Pace of Winslow, Tom Rothrock of Springdale, Mertye McIlroy Bagby, Bob Logan, Alan Skelton, Bernice Karnes and Deane Carter. Many others have sent us pictures or tips to follow up, for articles.

As you know, our Society was the first county historical magazine in the Southwest to use pictures. In 1965 we published more than 100 pictures in Flashback. Other historical societies got the idea that we are living in a picture age and have followed suit. Picture pages are expensive but we know that the readers like them.

During the past year, we added a new feature in Flashback -- my own personal "Campus Memories". I should explain that this had two purposes -- (1) to appeal to a younger generation, who are not much interested in old wars, old mills, old customs; and (2) to secure additional members at $3 each, chiefly from the ranks of University alumni. I think we have been successful on both counts. I only hope I won't run out of "Campus Memories".

-- W.J.Lemke

HISTORY IN STREET NAMES
Gregg, Lafayette, and Ida, in Fayetteville
(No 1 of a series)
by Deane G. Carter, secretary

It is likely that Lafayette Street in Fayetteville derives its name, directly or indirectly, from the Marquis de Lafayette. For Fayetteville, together with 20 other towns and 17 counties in the United States with "Fayette" in the corporate name were mostly named to honor the famous French general who aided the Colonies in the War of the Revolution.

A large number of boys were named for the Marquis during the 19th century. several such names are listed in the early records of Washington County. One given name in the marriage record book is entered, literally, as "Marcus D. Lafait." And the name of Lafayette Gregg stands out in the history of Fayetteville.

So before we conclude that both Fayetteville and Lafayette Street were named to commemorate Marquis de Lafayette, we should take note of two incidents of history: first, Among the first settlers who cameto Washington County were several from Fayetteville, Tennessee who became citizens of the community that had recently been designated as "Washington Courthouse."

Second, Lafayette Gregg was one of Fayetteville's prominent citizens who arrived in 1837 at the age of ten, and who, according to W. S. Campbell,

> "lived out such a purposeful life in Fayetteville that centuries will not wipe off the monuments left to him. His stately home, the Gregg farm near by, the University, the First National Bank building all attest his vision and vigor...His home on Gregg Street was long one of the beauty spots."

Lafayette Gregg died in 1891, but the "stately home" still stands at the intersection of Lafayette and Gregg. For many years the short street from Gregg west to the University was in the records as Ida Avenue. Ida Gregg was a daughter, of whom W.S.Campbell in 1928 said, "Miss Ida yet maintains the ancestral home, and is secretary to the Dean of Women at the University."

With this bit of history, can there be any doubt that the three streets, Lafayette, Gregg and Ida, were named in honor of Lafayette Gregg and daughter? But the memory of Lafayette Gregg should call to mind much more than the names of city streets. Many will recall the son, Dr.A.S.Gregg, and granddaughter, Miss Mildred, and other descendants. Of Lafayette Gregg, W.S.Campbell's evaluation is summaried here:

> "Largely through his influence and foresight the University came here. He wrote the bill that fixed it here. As a member of the building committee he gave much time to supervision of constructing the big administration building. Educated at Ozark Institute -- read law -- elected to legislature -- was prosecuting attorney -- Colonel in the Union Army -- Arkansas Supreme Court for three years -- candidate for Governor -- trustee of the University -- Columbian Exposition commission -- elder in the Christian Church -- president of the bank of Fayetteville."

PRAIRIE GROVE POST OFFICE, about 1900

In center is Nelson Mallicoat, postmaster. The bearded man beside him is his brother-in-law, Benjamin Marion Curtis, assistant postmaster. (Mr. Mallicoat married Jane Curtis.) The man at the left in the picture is John Simpson. The young man at the extreme right is Claude Dorman.

BIG SPRING -- MALLICOAT

The Big Spring community is located near the foot of Mallicoat Mountain and about 3/4 mile east of the Parks farm, which is on the Old Wire Road about 3 miles southwest of HogEye. There once was a school and a grist mill, the latter being owned by James Mallicoat, brother of Nelson Mallicoat, who grew up at Big Springs and later was postmaster at Hubbard and at Prairie Grove. Both were sons of Dedmond Mallicoat.

Nelson Mallicoat (1844 - 1910) married Jane Curtis, daughter of Ben Curtis and Elizabeth Short. When he became postmaster at Prairie Grove in 1897 he appointed his brother-in-law, Ben M. Curtis, assistant postmaster. Ben M. Curtis married Mary Strickler. Elizabeth Short was the daughter of Joel Short and Ben. M. Curtis was the son of Ben Curtis.

The child of Nelson and Jane Curtis-Mallicoat was Elizabeth, who married William T. Hammontree. Their children were Bird and Minnie Hammontree. Minnie Hammontree married J.W.Cohea, and their children were Rowena and Ardith. Ardith married Jones Pelfrey, divorced, and she is buried at Illinois Cemetery, while Minnie Hammontree-Cohea is buried at Prairie Grove. After the death of Minnie, the widower, J.W. Cohea, married Addie Clement.

James Mallicoat married Nancy Bullion,and their daughter, Donna Mallicoat, married Noah Rutherford, who died, and then she married P. Williams of West Fork.

MORROW, BREWSTER AND SCOTT CEMETERIES

On the Cove Creek road about seven miles south of Prairie Grove is the Morrow Cemetery. It is located east of the road, is surrounded by a fence, and is badly grown up with underbrush and trees. It is not in use. It is located near the Morrow House, or rather where the house stood before its removal to Battlefield Park at Prairie Grove. The Confederate generals met at this house the night before the battle to plan their strategy. Buried at this cemetery is John H. Morrow, born 1808, died 10-6-1885.

About one-half mile north of the Morrow Cemetery and immediately west of the road is the Brewster Cemetery. It is also badly grown up and is seldom used. Buried in this cemetery is Hiram E. Brewster, born 12-31-1842, died 6-19-1886, veteran of the Federal army; and his wife, Sarah Brewster. Also buried in this cemetery is Hugh Simpson, born k2-18-1787, died 1-2-1852, and his wife, Jane Simpson, born 4-21-1795, died 5-17-1861.

On the road leading from the Morrow community to Skylight, theroad to the Scott cemetery turns off to the north about one-fourth mile away, and then it is about one mile to the Scott Cemetery. Buried in this cemetery is Julie E. Scott, born 6-27-1855, died 7-19-1914, wife of W. H. Scott. Also in this cemetery is Neal W. Abshire, Wm. A. McCamish, Wm. Hodges, and others. This cemetery is still in use.

HUBBARD, THAT WAS

About five miles south of Prairie Grove on the CoveCreek road, where the Sulphur SpringsBranch and other small streams gather to form Muddy Fork of Illinois River, there once was a town called Hubbard. There was a store,a post office, a blacksmith shop, and a school. The school has been consolidated with Prairie Grove. Nelson Mallicoat had the store and the post office and Richard "Dick" Farmer had the blacksmith shop. All these buildings are now gone. Nelson Mallicoat sold the store to Bob Skelton, who later became manager of the grocery department of Southern Mercantile Company and became widely known as "Uncle Bob". His old home at Hubbard still stands.

The village existed long before the Ozark & Cherokee Central reached Prairie Grove in 1903. Nelson Mallicoat, a Federal soldier, became postmaster at Prairie Grove in 1897. While he ran the store at Hubbard he paid 2½ cents per dozen for eggs. But long before his death, Dec.6, 1964, Lewis N. "Poly" Hodges, who lived at Hubbard and sold eggs to Nelson Mallicoat, in 1888 was told not to bring any more eggs. One can easily imagine that eggs which had lain in the nest for several hours at least, a day or so in the Hubbard store, a day or so in the Prairie Grove store, plus the time spent in the market at Fayetteville, were a bit stale when they were served by the hotel or restaurant. To say the least, they would make only "good" scrambled eggs.

Like all once thriving little villages, they must yield to "Progress" when consolidation, discontinuance and extension of service are in order, even though it does create traffic jams elsewhere that "lights" are supposed to correct.

THE DANNENBERGS OF DUTCH MILLS

I have just finished reading "The Hermanns of Old Hermannsburg". On page 4 there is a reference to "the miller Dannenberg who operated two mills in Washington County and was whittled to death by Indian tomahawks." This man was my grandfather's grandfather. Louis Biron Dannenberg, my grandfather, is still living and here is the story he told me today when I asked him about this:

The Indians were the "Pin" Indians, so-called because of the way they wore their hair. Among them was a man called Blue Duck. They did kill the miller in that way. For many years afterward, the miller's son, Nat or Nate (probably Nathaniel) tracked down these men and killed them, all but one, in revenge. Years later he came face to face with this man. He was accompanied by his brother, Bob Dannenberg, and when the latter asked why he did not kill him, he said "We are both old and that was a long time ago. The miller's son married a Cherokee woman and raised eight children. One is dead, J.R.Dannenberg, who was court clerk in Stilwell for many years. The Dannenberg family is in Stillwell, and my grandfather's address is L.B.Dannenberg, Proctor, Oklahoma.

According to my grandfather, the Hermanns were not the founders of Dutch Mills, but came there after his father had been there many years.

Mrs. Judy Everley,
6709 E. 28th Place, Tulsa, Okla.

Records of the
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH (Springdale)

5th Installment
by W. J. Lemke

February 1870 -- The Church say she appoints brother W.H. and sister Rebecca Holcomb to visit sister Susan Fitzgerald to ascertain the cause of her dissatisfaction with the Church....By motion and second the Church say she appoints brothers A.G.Smith and E. Atwood to visit sister Susan Cloer and sister Milla Davis and ascertain if the report of joining another church not of our faith is true or not.

March 1870 -- Owing to the inclemency of the weather, there was no meeting on the 2nd Saturday. The Church met on Sabbath following and after worship granted letter of dismission to brother Aaron B. Ward and sisters Martha Thominson, Fannie Ward and Jane Ward, all in good order and full fellowship.

April 1870 -- Received report of committee in relation to sister Susan Fitzgerald. The Church say she will leave the matter where she found it.....In reference to sisters Susan Cloer and Milly Davis, the Church withdraws the right hand of fellowship for joining a church not of our faith and order....By motion and second the Church say she will convene her next meeting on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in May and attend to the sacrament and washing the saints feet and invite the official aid of sister Churches to attend at that time...Brother Labon Walters received into church fellowship and as candidate for baptism.

May 1870 -- At the request of sister Susan Fitzgerld, the Church grants her a letter of dismission in good order....Elder John Holcomb, moderator; Wm. H. Holcomb, clerk.

July 1870 -- By the request of brother W. H. Holcomb, the Church say she release him as Clerk and appoint brother Evans Atwood as Clerk.

August 1870 -- The Church elected Elders Jno. Holcomb, N.F.Goodrich, A.G.Smith, and Bro. Wm.H.Holcomb (alternate) as delegates to the next Association meeting. The Church agreed to send Ten Dollars by the delegates for use of the Association....Letters of dismission granted to Bro. McDaniel, sister Nancy Revis, Bro. & Sister McLeod.

September 1870 -- The Church say she withdraw the hand of fellowship from Sisters Manda Hunter and Elisabeth Horton for joining a church not of our faith...The Church appointed Bros. Peerson and Summy to see Bro. Ezra Banks in reference to some reports against him.....On motion and second, the Church grant Liberty Church of Missionary Baptists the privilege of holding their regular meetings in our house during this fall and winter.

October 1870 -- Opened the door for the reception of members and received Bro. Bethel and Sister Vina Gibson, also Sister Jane Lewis, by experience and as a candidate for baptism.

December 1870 -- The Church failed to meet in conference, owing to the inclement weather.

November 1870 -- On motion and second the Church says she is willing to sell the church house if opportunity offers. Committee appointed to act as Agent for the Church in the sale of the house: appointed John Quillin, C. Petross and Evans A twood.

January 1871 -- Received Bro. Charles and Sister Nancy Ramey as members, by letter....Committee reported they have sold the church house and that portion of the lot west of a line running parallel with the house, ten feet east of the house, for $300...The Church appoints Bros. A. G. Smith, Wm. H. Holcomb & C. Petross a building committee to draft plans and solicit subscription for building purposes, etc., and report progress at next meeting....The Church grant the members who meet at Smith's Schoolhouse the privilege of receiving and baptizing those who wish to join the church at that place.

February 1871 -- The Church says she will answer the request of Bethlehem Church asking our official aid in the ordination of a minister and deacon at her next meeting.

March 1871 -- Called for report of building committee, which was continued until next meeting...The Church withdraws the hand of fellowship from Sister Mary Ann Sizemore for joining another church not of our faith....The Church appointed Bro. Jno. Quillin doorkeeper for the next 12 months and promise to pay him a reasonable sum for services.

May 1871 -- By request of Bro. Ramey, the church grants him & Sister Nancy Ramey letters of dismission.....The Church received the thanks tendered to her by Liberty Church of Missionary Baptists, for the past use of our church house.

June 1871 -- The Church empowers the building committee to make arrangements with the Masonic fraternity for them (the Masonic fraternity) to build an upper room on the church house for their special use.

July 1871 -- The Church appointed Bro. E.Atwood to write to Bro. and Sister Caudle and to Sisters Elisabeth, mary & Martha Rowland and ascertain their reason for not corresponding with the Church.

The Church accepts the propositions of the Missionary Baptist brethren and the Methodist brethren who agree to unite with us in building a partnership meeting house, they to furnish one-fourth each ofthe means to build the house and be entitled to one-fourth each of the time to use said house; the Regular Baptists to furnish the balance of the means and be entitled to the rest of the time in the use of the house.....Curtailed the building committee to two brethren, A.G.Smith and Evans Atwood who are hereby authorized to make a contract or contracts in writing with the aforesaid denominations relative to the proper division of the time to be set apart to each party, and other rules and regulations necessary.

August 1871 -- Received Jno.H. Holcomb and Catharine Clark by experience and as candidates for baptism. Also "restored" Bro. John Clark to Church fellowship...Elected by private ballot, Brethren Wm. H. Holcomb, Evans Atwood and John Peerson delegates to the Association and Eld. Jno. Holcomb alternate. Contributed $10 for Association purposes.

September 1871 -- The Church grant those of her members who may meet at Sister Sarah Grahams or immediate vicinity (on Hickory Creek) the liberty of receiving members into our body.

October 1871 -- At a meeting of the Arm of the Church near Hickory Creek, restored Sister Polly Barnum to fellowship and received by experience Nancy Clark and Elisabeth Newton as candidates for baptism.

January 1872 -- Granted Sister Martha Rowland a letter of dismission in full fellowship...Appointed Elder A. G. Smith and Bro. W.S. Banks a committee to visit Bro. Benjamin Looper and Sister Looper and labor with them in relation to their immoral conduct....Appointed Bros. M.P. Daniels and Wm.H.Holcombe to visit Bro. Joseph White and labor with him in relation to his drinking too much intoxicating liquor.

February 1872 -- Received report of Committee in the case of Bro. & Sister Looper. Received acknowledgement of Sister Looper as satisfactory. Withdrawed the hand of fellowship from Bro. Looper in the charge of immoral conduct.....Withdrawed the hand of church fellowship from Bro.Joseph White on charge of drinking too mych intoxicating liquor.

April 1872 -- Agree to commemorate the Lord's Supper at the next regular meeting which commences Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in May.

May 1872 -- Received a request from West Fork Church asking official aid at her next meeting which we agree to answer. Agree to answer a similar request of Osage Church.

June 1872 -- Chose Eld. T. Dodson as Moderator pro tem. Appointed Bro. John Peerson as Clerk pro tem.

July 1872 -- Liberated Bro. John Clark to exercise in public in any way he thinks proper, wherever God in his providence may cast his lot.

August 1872 -- Granted Sister Elisabeth Looper a letter of dismission...Rescinded the act of receiving Bro. E. M. Caudle into the church April 1868...Chose Elds. N.F.Goodrich, John Holcombe & A.G.Smith delegates to the Association, Wm.H.Holcomb alternate.

September 1872 -- Opened door for reception of members and received Sisters Susan Kendrick, Telitha White & Elisabeth White by experience and as candidates for baptism.
Granted brethren John Clark, Jackson Autry, Henry Autry and sisters Caroline Autry, Catharine Clark, Elisabeth Newton and Margaret Sutry letters of dismission for the purpose of organizing a church near Hickory Creek.

January 1873 -- Withdrew the hand of church fellowship from Sister Kiturah Graham for joining another church not of our faith & order.

February 1873 -- Opened door for reception of members and received Bro. & Sister Joel N. & Mary Throneberry by letter...Released Bro.W.H. Holcombe as doorkeeper & appointed Bro.C.Petross in his place

April 1873 -- Granted letters of dismission to Bro. G.W.Holcombe and Sister Susan Kendrick....Agree to answer a request of Bethlehem Church who asks our advice in receiving a certain member, who having probably a former husband living has again married. We advise our sister church to receive said member,..Agree to commemorate the Lord's Supper at our next meeting.

May 1873 -- Granted Bro. W. Ezra Banks a letter of dismission....Our doorkeeper is instructed to keep the Church door closed except for the worship of God, during the part of the time we control it.

July 1873 -- Withdrawed the hand of fellowship from Bro.S.Ellington on a charge of drunkenness...Liberated Bro.J.N.Throneberry to exercise in public in any way he may see proper in the service of God, where God in his providence may cast his lot, within the bounds of this Association.

August 1873 -- Withdrawed the hand of Church fellowship from Sister Nancy Clark for contempt of the Church.....Elected Elds. A.G. Smith, N.F.Goodrich and Bro. Wm.H.Holcombe delegates to the Association and Eld. John Holcombe alternate. Agree to contribute five dollars for the use of the Association.

September 1873 -- Opened the door for the reception of members and received Br. Frank Simpson (colored) into our Church fellowship by experience and as a candidate for baptism.

November 1873 -- By the request of Sister Martha Jane Patton, the Church granted her a letter of dismission in full fellowship.

January 1874 -- Took up and discussed the subject of gospel testimony and decided that when any of our members are charged with being guilty of unchristian conduct, not being seen by any of our members, that the Church appoint a committee of faithrful brethren to go out and seek for information from reliable sources with regard to the guilt or innocence of the party and report accordingly.

February 1874 -- Appointed A.G.Smith, W.H.Holcombe and the Clerk to look after members that are gone and have not reported to the Church for years.

April 1874 -- Received as members, Bro. & Sister Stephen Peerson and Malinda Peerson by letter, said letter certifying that Bro.Peerson was a regular ordained Deacon....Appointed Bro. James S. Graham trustee in place of Bro. David Savage who has been dismissed from us by letter... Agree to attend the Lord's Supper and washing the Saints feet at our next meeting.

May 1874 -- Received a request from Richland Church,for our official aid to assist in the ordination of Bro.G.H.Loving, which was granted.

July 1874 -- Agree to represent by letter and delegates in the next Association. Request that the name "Primitive Baptist" be adopted by the Association.

(Shiloh Church records to be continued in next issue.)

TWO RARE OLD TINTYPES
from the Middle Fork Valley

by Frank M. McConnell

Back in the old days when women were scarce, many of them were married before they were 16. These are the pictures of Benjamin F. Ramey (born Dec. 16, 1839) and Lavina Lewis Ramey (born Jan. 8, 1851). She was the daughter of George W. Lewis. They were married March 14, 1869. The pictures were made about the same time.

Other children of George W. Lewis who married young were: Lydia Lewis, born March 10, 1849 (married Benjamin F. Johnson July 28, 1864), and Matilda Lewis, born August 29, 1854 (married J. Cornelius Jones, and after his death she married William Newt Jones). J. Cornelius Jones was killed. He was a first cousin of Newt Jones who once lived on South School Avenue, first house south of Center Street. He owned a drug store located on the east side of the square.

A PIONEER LETTER TO WASHINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1843

(Editor's note: An interesting genealogical correspondence that I had last year with Mrs. Thelma S. Miller, PO Box 25, Atmore, Alabama, brought me the following letter:)

Dear Mr.Lemke, I received a letter from you 3 Dec. 1964, referring to the "Hilbert-Webb killing on Dec. 26, 1859", in which you stated you are not familiar with the above episode. Since then, I have come into possession of the enclosed letter copy in which I thought you would be interested, due to the date, the interest in education, and the description of the church at that period. Also, I came across the following record in the census, which is similar in names and dates to the family I am interested in:

White River Township, Washington Co., Ark. Schedule 1, 6 Nov. 1850

G. W. Halbert	31	m.	farmer 250.	Va.
Sarah	29	f.		S.C.
Henry	3	m.		Ark.
James	3	m.		Ark.
Peter	1	m.		Ark.

In the obituary of Sarah Hues Crittenden-Helbert, it is stated that in Nov. 1843 she married, in Laclede Co., Mo., George Helbert and moved to Washington Co., Ark. Also, that her children were born there, and in 1865 she moved back to Phillipsburg, Mo., a widow at that time. Their first child was born in Aug. 1844 and died an infant. The next three children were named Henry Clay, James Mayfield and John Peter Helbert. I understand that George Helbert was a preacher and also had a grist mill in Arkansas. Some time ago a Mrs.Stringfellow, 329 Washington Ave., Fayetteville, told my cousin about the mill and also had a picture of it.

If you find any information pertaining to this Helbert family, I would appreciate hearing from you and will certainly be happy to pay any cost of copies of anything that you find.

- Mrs. Thelma S. Miller, Atmore, Alabama

Helbert Letter

(Copied from a copy owned by Mrs. O.B.Eakins (Jessie Helbert, granddaughter of George Helbert), Tulsa, Okla., by Thelma Smith Miller, on 10 Aug. 1965.)

"I received this Sept. 5, 1934 from sister Sadie with this notation: 'This is a true copy of our great-grandfather's letter written just as it was. Each line same as he had it written, only it covered two pages of capital letters. All same as original except I had it typed on one page. John,the son, is our grandfather's brother. This letter belonged to our father, Henry Clay Helbert.'" -- Winnie Helbert Schober

State of Virginia, Washington County, Dec the 5 day 1843.
Dear Son we recived your letter with much joy to us all
This is the 25 letter we have recived of yours sence the
tenth of June last we thank God that we are all well at
this time and have bin aver sence we saw you last We
Have bin very uneasy for you and your mother in partick-
ler She was griev more or less for you aver day andshe
says she wants you to come right strate home to her.
There is nothing would give us so much pleasure as to see

you coming home once more your mother has confessed sence you have bin gone that she loves you better than all the rest of her children. I myself desire to see you with all my heart tho we aught as one family to thank God that we have many choice blessings that many others are deprived of in this life we can all write to one another threwout this world. I thank God this day that I as a father have given my children all good learning for it is one of the greatest blessings in life for me to hold in my hands a letter that I know you rote with your own hand and pen. I would to my God that aver man would consider these things and give his children good learning we have nothin strange to rite to you only that we are all in good health and doing well both for time and eternally we can inform you that we have all joined the Miss Babtist John is preaching the doctrine as strong as brother Wilhite the Miss Babtist has destroyed every other church threw out the state of Virg Penn Maryland and i hope dear son you still remain in the same faith being that it was in you when a child you left us all and joined the baptist but we are all in the same church at this time I thank my God that we are all in one church in Christ.

times is vary good here at present every thing is high for cash crops good health is good and has bin all the season i am glad that you are displeased with Mot you rote you are going to the Texas I want you not to marry till you come home it would displease us all for you to marry in Mo. you said you wished me to send you money I would send you money but I could not make out the name of the post office. It was rubbed out mostly and another thing the paper money is not good any more in this state I would rite many more things to you if known you would get this letter If you do get it rite as quick as you can may the choise blessings of God rest with you for ever is my prayer for you my son. yours til death

JOHN W HELBERT

NEWS NOTES

We have previously mentioned "Martin Christopher Randleman: His Kin and Heirs, 1754-1964", written by Billee Snead Webb. Mrs.Webb writes that the 400-volume first printing was sold in 1965. She plans a second printing, if enough prepaid orders are received. The 764-page book includes a 4,000-name index, and is lithographed on fine quality paper in a handsome gold-embossed cover. Only pre-sold copies will be made up at the price of $10 postpaid. Order from Randleman, 2372 Brussells, North Bend, Oregon 97459.

Our interest in Martin Randleman is that he was a soldier in the American Revolution and is supposedly buried in Washington County, Ark. We have been unable to locate his grave, and if any of our readers have any information, please write to Mrs.Webb at the above Randleman address or to Washington County Historical Society, Box 237, Fayetteville, Ark.

TWO PIONEER LETTERS FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY
written by Jacob and Seth Mills,
plus some notes on the Mills family
by Frank M. McConnell

(Editor's note: Miss Mary D. Hudgins, a graduate of the University and a long-time member of our Society, operates an antique business in Hot Springs, Ark. A man recently brought two old letters to her. From the postmarks and dates (Fayetteville 1843 and Boone's Grove 1852) Miss Hudgins recognized their historical value. She was kind enough to have the letters copied for us and we are publishing them herewith. In our last issue we asked any of our readers who knew anything about the Mills family, to tell us what they know. Frank M.McConnell of Fayetteville, who is an authority on old settlers on the Middle Fork of White River, responded and we are publishing his comment, following the Mills letters. -- WJL)

Letter No. 1

(Folded letter, postmarked June 16, 1843, Fayetteville, Ark. Postage 25 (cts). Addressed to Mr. Aaron Mills, State of Indiana, Morgan County, Belville post office.)

Washington County, Arkansas, June 5, 1843

Esteemed cousin. I gladly embrace this opportunity to write to you a few lines to let you understand how we are coming on and we are about as well (as) common and hoping these few lines may find you enjoying good health.

Now I will inform you that we received your letter the 28 day of May and read it with great joy, that you were all well and all doing well. You said in your letter that you had looked for a letter time after time but looked in vain. I have thought a great many times of writing to you but I did not know where to direct my letter to you.

I will just state that Father has 200 acres of land where we live, 55 cleared on it. He has another farm in one mile and half that contains 160 acres, a house and six acres cleared on it. He has another farm in 5 miles of him, contains 120 acres with 50 acres under fence and 22 acres cleared of it, with a very good house on it. He also gave Aaron L. Mills 140 acres of land. He also gave Enos Mills 160 acres of land. He also gave Henry Mills 160 of land. He also gave Joseph Thompson 80 of land. He also gave john Camp 60 acres of land. I will quit that subject.

Enos Mills was married June the 14, 1838 to girl by the name of Edy Mankins. They have four children. The oldest is a girl, they call her name Martha Jane. The second call her name Lydia, the third his name William Riley, the fourth is a boy, he is four days old. They have not named it yet.

Henry Mills was married in 1840. He married a girl by the name of Milly Reed. They have one child, they call his name Seth Phineas. I am single yet but I have my own fun with the girls.I can go when I please and come when I please. And if that is not enough you must come and see for yourself. I would be very (glad) of your company.

I will just state that Aaron L. Mills and Henry Mills has moved to Missouri. They live in Dade County, 35 miles of Springfield west on the head of LimeStone creek. They have very pretty farms from accounts. I heard Henry Mills say that he expected to have 50 acres in cultivation this spring. All they have to do is fence it and break it up. They say it is most beautiful prairie out where they live but timber is bad.

John Camp & Sarah Camp has moved to Missouri where Aaron L. Mills lives. He has bought a farm, contains 80 acres, but he claims 80 acres more joining him.

Aaron L. Mills had had five children. Eldest they call his name John Riley. The second is a girl, they call her name Mary Ann, she deceased from this life last fall. The third they call his name Enos. The fourth they call his name Lewis Williams. The fifth they call her name Sarah. Henry L. Mills & Aaron L. Mills were both sick with the chill & fever. I do not believe it is as healthy as it is here. I will quit that subject.

Father and mother is healthier than they have been for many years with the rheumatism. I will give you a small sketch of our country. It is very hilly and rocky here but there is some good land here. But one fine blessing, we have our health here. I do believe it to be the most healthy country that is in the nowing (sic) world. Times are hard here. Money is scarce and to help the cause, Ball, our cashier of the Bank, he and some of his securities has hooked the money out of the bank and fled to Texas. There was no doubt but there was more Ball than one, so the old bird has gone and the young ones will soon all follow.

Prices of things. Horses is from 15 to 20 dollars, cattle from 4 to 8 dollars, sheep 1 dollar, pork from 1 to 1.50 cents per hundred, wheat 50 cents per bushel, coffee 6 pounds to the dollar, sugar 6 pounds to the dollar. I will just state that we have had the hardest winter that we ever had here before. We had a very cold spring.

I amd father and mother talks of coming to Indiana this fall if we can but times is so hard I can't tell whether we can or not. We want to see you all very bad. If we do not we expect to go to Missouri to see our people. Isaac Mills has sold his place and gone to Missouri this spring. He write a letter back to us that he was going to Oregon Territory, and also John B. Mills & William Willson, Polly Mills' man, was going with him and a great many of the neighbors are talking of going also and father. He would like to cross the Rocky Mountain if all was willing and could sell out. He says it would be a fortune to them in time.

Uncle Aaron Mills lives with father & he wants to go to Columbia if he could sell his land. It was your request that you would like to hear from Benjamin B. Mills. We heard that he was in Missouri, in the Iowa Territory, & that he was married and doing well. We did not understand as to your request that you want to hear from Walter Mills. We heard that there was a man in Arkansas, over at a town they call LittleRock. His name was Walter Mills. We heard that he was a cabinet worker. He got on a steamboat and the boiler bursted and killed him and another person. In fact it was in the newspapers that W. Mills, cabinet workman, was killed, so we do not know whether it was Walter or not.

Owen Mills he has left his wife and gone with his father. Peter & Amanda Narcissus Mankins is well. They met with bad luck -- they got their house burnt last spring, and also their father and mother was burnt. They judge it was set afire.

I shall draw to a close. I want you to write to me every opportunity you can, how you come on. We are all glad to hear from you all. I hope if we never do see each other again in this world, I hope we will meet in heaven where we never shall part no more. The day is past and gone, the evening shade appears. May all remember well, the night of death draws near. We lay our garments by, upon our beds to rest. So shall death soon disrobe us all, of what is here possessed. Lord, keep us safe this night, secure from all our fears. May angels guard us while we sleep till morning light appears. So with sincere love to you all I bid you farewell and all inquiring friends, to Aaron Mills and all my relations

JACOB MILLS

Letter No. 2

(Folded letter, addressed to Mr.Aaron Mills, Mooresville PostOffice, Indiana. Postmarked "Boone's Grove, Ark., March 1st '52." Postage 5.)

State of Ark., February the 24th / 52

Esteemed Relations

I have taken the present opportunity of addressing a few lines to you, to let you know that I am well at the present time, hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing.

I have never received a letter from you yet, so I have had no correct news from you since I saw you last. And I am sorry to state that I have neglected writing to you, for I am sure it is not much trouble to write once and a while. I want us not to neglect writing hereafter, and keep up a communication with each other. Although we live some distance apart and never enjoyed one another's company much, that is no excuse for us, for by the Art of man, if we live thousands of miles apart we can keep up a correspondence with each other by way of letter.

I will just state that since I saw you last I have traveled something like nine thousand miles, spent a good deal of money and made some. I left home on the 27th of April 1850 for California in company with brother A. L. Mills, G. W. King. After a travel of four months & fifteen days, we landed at Weaverville, Eldorado, California, by way of the over land route. We staid there till the first of November '51. We worked hard and lived hard, but got very well paid for our labour. When I left there it was my intention to make another trip,with cattle across the plains. I know that there was a big sp(?) to be made at it.

We left San Francisco on the steamship Tennessee for Panama. I got got there on the fifteenth day, crossed the Isthmus a-foot. One days and a half travel for us though it was not but twenty-one miles to Cruces where we hired a peroque to go down to Shagress at the mouth of the Shagress River. There we took passage to Havana on the steamship Ohio, and from Havana to NewOrleans we shipped on the steamer Philadelphia.

We landed at NewOrleans on the fourth of December. I got home on the 14th of January /52. I will inform you that A.L. Mills did not live to reach home. He was taken sick at Little Rock on the 23rd of December and deceased on the 3rd of January /52. His complaint was the newmony fever and the yellow yanders together. I had a able physician to attend to him but it was all to no effect. He has left a widow and seven children to mourn his death. Out of seven brothers there is but two of us left.

Father and Mother is well as could be expected of people of their age. All of the rest of the connection is well as far as I know. William Massey is married and getting along very well. His wife has a fine daughter. Silvester Massey is in here at this time and says they was all well in Missoury when he left. Sally Camp came in with him on a visit and intends to stay here till John Camp returns home, he being in that State at this time on Business.

Times in this State is much better than it was a few years ago. Land bears a better price than it did. Property of all descriptions bears a good price. A good horse is worth from 80 to 100 dollars. A yoke of oxen is worth from 30 to 40 dollars. Pork was worth $5 per hundred; Bacon at this time is worth ten cents per pound. Wheat is worth 50 cents per bushel, corn from 37½ to 50 cents per bushel, other things in proportion.

I am single yet, but if I do not go back to California again, I intend to settle myself and try to live a steady life. I must now draw my letter to a close, hoping you will excuse my awkward letter and write me a answer as soon as you receive this. Give my respects to all of my connections in that country. So I remain your friend and well wisher until death.

SETH T. MILLS

3. Mills and Boone's Grove

On page 25 of the November 1965 "Flashback" you refer to photostatic copies of letters, mailed by Jacob Mills 1843 and Seth Mills 1852.

Seth Mills once owned the farm located about a quarter of a mile north of old Carter's Store. The farm was later owned by William B. Hensley, who married Mattie Carter, daughter of Dr. John C. Carter.

Seth Mills was born June 19, 1782, and died when quite old. He was a Quaker and first settled in Indiana. He came to Arkansas in 1838. His wife was Charity Thornsberry. He and his wife and other members ofthe Mills family are believed buried in the Mills Cemetery. The cemetery and the headstones were removed after 1904 and the old cemetery can not now be identified.

Mrs. George W. Lewis, who was born Letty Mills Dec. 20, 1828, was one of his children. Others included Aaron L., Henry (who married Sarah Ramey, sister of Ben F. Ramey), Enos L., Mary Ann (who first married Matthew Massey and later married Joseph Thompson), Rachel (who married John J. VanHoose), Seth T. Jr (who died of measles while inthe Confederate Army), Kimsey, Jacob, Sally and Moses Mills.

Jacob Mills was 23 when he married Edy Lewis, who was 19. The marriage ceremony was performed by James P. Dickerson, JP, Dec. 18, 1845. He was killed by bushwhackers during the Civil War.

Enos L. Mills was killed at the Mills farm. He was born Dec.7, 1831, and is buried at the Mount Zion Cemetery, Sept. 7, 1868. Seth Mills gave the land for the Mount Zion Cemetery and the school and church that used to be at that place. J.L.McConnell taught school there about 1892 and Hattie G. Ramey attended her first school there about 1892.

Boone's Grove was located about 1½ miles east of Elkins, where the old Mount Salem Road used to come off the hill and into Highway 16. Benjamin F. Reagor was postmaster at Boone's Grove at the time the Mills letter was mailed.

Benjamin F. Boone died Mar. 1, 1863,from wounds received in the battle of Prairie Grove Dec. 7, 1862. He is buried in the Benjamin F. Boone Cemetery which is located north of the Boone barn on the east side of Highway 16 east of Elkins.

FRANK M. McCONNELL

FIVE GENERATIONS OF SIMPSONS

by Clara E. (Simp[illegible]son) Kendrick
328 S. Locust, Nowata, Okla.

My father, Bob Simpson, was born Feb. 17, 1862, near Mulberry, Ark. When his father, Lewis Simpson, returned from service in the War between the North and the South, the father took Bob and his brother, Jess Simpson, and their two sisters, Jane and Allen and moved to Washington County, Ark., about three miles south of Cane Hill. This was a lovely valley known as Honey Hollow because of the many honey bees in every hollow tree. The folks used honey for sweetening, because sugar was scarce in those days, and so was money, likewise.

Grandfather Simpson remarried and soon they purchased a section of land. This land was in Margaret Simpson's name until 1882 when the taxes were paid by my father, Bob Simpson. When Grandmother died, she left her part of the land to my father and his wife, Amy Reed Simpson, to whom he was married in 1881. To this union were born two children: Clara Ethel Simpson, born Dec. 12, 1883, and Johnnie Simpson, born July 1885. Johnnie died in infancy and was laid to rest in what was called the Cox cemetery, possibly the oldest cemetery in Washington County. In August 1887, my mother, Amy Simpson, daughter of Samuel Reed, died and was laid to rest beside her infant son in the Cox cemetery. I was a motherless daughter at the age of 3½ years. I went to live with my grandparents, Sam and Lizza Holt Reed, and their family of seven children. I was a happy youngster while with my grandparents.

In February 1889 my father, Bob Simpson, remarried -- to Annie Dold, daughter of Dr. Dryden and Nancy (Reed) Dold. Then my father demanded that his daughter come back and live with him and his new wife in their home on the farm. I never was happy with my new mother. To this union were born three sons. Louis Dryden Simpson, known as "L.D.", who was born July 9, 1889. I now had a new brother, the sweetest little bundle I had ever known. I loved him with all my heart and rocked him in the same home-made cradle that I had been rocked in, also my father before me, as our Grandfather Simpson had made this cradle before the Civil War. It was a masterpiece.

Another son was born June 18, 1891 - Marvin T. Simpson. Now I had two brothers, and we were three happy youngsters. He too was rocked in the same home-made cradle and he required plenty of attention when he was not sleeping, as he had to get his food from a bottle, which required more work on my part. The third son was born Dec. 11, 1893. His name was Ollie Simpson but he lived only a few days. He too was laid to rest in the Cox cemetery. Mama was sick in bed for weeks and it was up to me to care for Marvin T., plenty sleepless nights rocking that cradle. I did the best I knew at the age of 10 years. One evening I could not forget -- a good neighbor lady by the name of Mrs. Lula Freeman, came to my rescue. She took my brother in her arms and told me to go to bed and get some needed rest. It was the first night's sleep I had gotten in weeks.

There was no such a thing as a hospital or a nursing home or an undertaker. Neighbors helped each other in times of sickness and death. All these services were rendered free by helping hands when needed.

My brothers were wonderful boys and good company for a lonely sister. They were often called twins, as they were both about the same size. Both started to school the same day. Soon L.D. was a year ahead of Marvin T. In 1902 Father sold our farm and moved to Prairie Grove, so the boys could get a better education. On Nov. 3 their mother, Annie (Dold) Simpson, died of typhoid fever and she too was laid to rest in the Cox cemetery.

Then it was up to me to keep my promise to their mother that I would do all I could for my two brothers, who were then 10 and 12 years old. As time went on, L.D. and Marvin T. Simpson both graduated from Prairie Grove high school. During their school years at home, our Father married Miss Eva Lewis, and to this union were born twins, Harold and Hazel Simpson. We were proud to have a new brother and sister. She was the first girl since I was born, being the oldest of seven children. I could say eight children, as Eva had a daughter, whose name was changed to Bessy Simpson, but our Father was not her father by blood.

The twins grew rapidly but at the age of six years, our Father died from a heart ailment, and left them for their mother to supposrt. We three older children were away from home and out in the world on our own, so we signed the home in Prairie Grove and the farm over to our foster mother, Eva Lewis Simpson, who soon sold the property and moved to Tulsa, Okla. Our father died April 1, 1915 and was laid to rest in Prairie Grove cemetery. Eva Lewis Simpson died 1943 in Pawhuska where she was making her home with her daughter Bessie.

Harold Simpson died of a heart attack on Jan. 3, 1953. He had been with Swift & Company nearly 20 years. He was laid to rest in the Tulsa cemetery. He left a wife, Mamie Simpson, and an adopted son Paul. At the services in the Methodist Church, Edgar Guest's poem "This Is My Religion", was read by the Rev. James Carter, minister of youth. His brothers, L.D. and Marvin T. Simpson, were present, but Harold's twin sister in California was not able to come. L.D. and Marvin and their sister (Clara E. Kendrick) spent several days visiting kinfolks. Then Marvin went back to his drug store in Kansas City. He had no wife or family. Both brothers were victims of World War I and seldom hada well day after their return to the USA. My life was wrapped around both their lives, and we three shared each other's misfortunes and joys. I, being the oldest, never dreamed I would have to carry on at their passing.

Dec. 17, 1958 at 2 in the morning, I received a telegram saying that L.D. had passed away in St. Louis. I had just come home from St.Louis in November and was trying to help my brother, Marvin T. Simpson, who was in the Wadsworth Hospital in Missouri. I decided that L.D. gone, I should go to help my sick brother. I tried to get him transferred to the Muskogee Veterans Hospital. He died Dec. 30 in Kansas City. I was at his side when death came and had him laid to rest in the cemetery at Coffeyville, Kansas. Being the oldest of our Simpson family, I will soon be with the rest. Am now 82 years of age.

Clara E. (Simpson) Kendrick
(also Reed, King, Holt)

with his first wife,
Amy King Reed.
This is their wedding picture,
June 1881.

with his third wife,
Eva Lewis of Prairie Grove,
whom he married
in 1905.

with his second wife, Annie Dold, and his children: Marvin T., Louis D. and Clara E. Simpson. Photo 1896.

(See accompanying article by Clara Simpson Kendrick)

SOME FOOTNOTES TO ARTICLES IN OCTOBER 1965 ISSUE OF FLASHBACK

by Robert R. Logan

The John T. Skelton Cemetery

Alan G. Skelton obviously spent much effort on the history of this cemetery and he likewise has done an excellent job of preserving it. Mr. McConnell also is to be thanked for his help in gathering details used in the article. Literally thousands of little family cemeteries in the South are to be found abandoned and growing up in brush, if they survive at all. In many instances the fieldstone markers have been removed and the ground plowed or bulldozed for highway construction or for subdivisions. When last summer we visited Mrs.Logan's family cemetery in Lee County, Virginia, we found it completely overgrown with vines, shrubs and trees -- worse than the Skelton cemetery in Fayetteville. The Stockstill family cemetery in Warren County, Tennessee, may no longer be found. Fieldstone markers which never had inscriptions have been removed and the field placed under cultivation. Genealogy and history have indeed been lost beyond recovery.

During the life of my grandfather he of course cared for the cemetery. After his death, my grandmother came to live with my mother, Pollie Skelton Logan, and the two managed to keep the cemetery clean. First, Uncle Henry Moore, a colored friend who had gone through the war with his master, Woob Moore, and my grandfather, did the work. Afterward, at his death, Mr. D.R.Overholt took charge. After Mr. Overholt's death and during the war years,and afterward, it proved impossible to get the work done and the vegetation got out of control.Two of the Skelton sons, Bob of Alberta, Canada, and Gordon of Corvallis, Oregon, seemed the only ones interested in the cemetery. These two boys made regular contributions toward the expense.

Although Alan Skelton wrote me some years ago about getting the cemetery cleaned, I could find no one to do the work. Then with the assistance of Carl Rose, County Agent, I sought to have the cemetery sprayed to kill the vegetation but we could find no one willing to contaminate his tanks. The only way that I can see to clean the cemetery is to poison the ground with Triox or similar chemical. Dr.J. Hayden Anderson suggests he has a sprayer that with diesel oil would kill the plants. We may try this method.

Alan is quite right. John T. Skelton selected this spot because he felt sure that no railroad would ever disturb it. He did not foresee that his home, once out in the country, would be taken into Fayetteville to become business and residential property. The greatest danger to the Skelton cemetery is that some subdivider, if he finds no one objecting, will quietly bulldoze the land and remove the monuments. Alan has seemingly headed off any such action - at least for a time.

I have heard that the first burial in the Skelton cemetery was of a Mr. Jackson. If so, he more than likely would have been a member of Harry Jackson's family. Whether he is still buried there I do not know. More than 50 years ago a number of families had the remains of their dead removed to Evergreen or other cemeteries. Capt. A.A.Evans, a Confederate artilleryman, was buried there originally, but a son, "Eck#" (Alexander, I think) and a brother had their father's remains moved.

When Bob Skelton from Alberta, Canada, and Gordon Skelton from Corvallis, Oregon, visited their mother in 1912-13, they considered removing their family dead but in deference to the wishes of the mother, Mary Rebekah (Vernon) Skelton, did not do so. She said her husband had selected the site and that it did not make much difference anyway. She thought he would prefer to remain where he was. He had died in 1908 and in 1918 she was buried by his side.

In re Mr. McConnell's notes about Ben Johnson. Mr. McConnell tells the story of the raid by Tuck Smith's Confederate Company on the Johnson-Lewis wedding dinner. A different version bears repeating. My grandfather, John T. Skelton, and his brother-in-law, William Anderson Hamilton ("Bill An") Vernon, were among the Confederates. They were on patrol when the raid took place and joined in with Tuck Smith's company. The surprise was much greater than Mr. McConnell's story would indicate.

The Confederates quietly captured a picket who was less alert than he should have been. Most of the Federals lost their hats and some of the officers lost their swords. "Bill" Vernon liberated a badly needed hat once worn by a Federal officer. The raiders enjoyed such a feast that one seriously doubts the ladies were able to carry the food "to the attic." Mr.McConnell is right in saying that the Confederates sought to capture old Ben himself. The late Oscar Williams told me that Ben's wartime activities led to this desire.

HISTORY IN STREET NAMES: Deane Street in Fayetteville
(No. 2 of a series by Deane G. Carter)

Fayetteville's street names often have little significance to the generations of the mid-20th Century. And yet, among the many new "trails, lanes, roads, drives, and ways" of the growing community are just plain streets and avenues bearing names that bulk large in the history of Fayetteville and Washington County. One such is:

Deane Street, in the northwest part of Fayetteville, extending west from North Garland to the Mount Comfort road. This street was named for Dr. Charles W. Deane, pioneer physician and prominent citizen of the area. Dr.Deane died on March 4, 1886 at his home "two miles northwest of Fayetteville" and was buried in the Mount Comfort cemetery. Campbell&s History of Fayetteville mentions C. W. Deane in connection with patriotic, civic, religious and education activities of the town.

His obituary, found in the J. H. VanHoose scrapbook, says in part: "Dr. Deane came to Fayetteville about 50 years ago (1836) and engaged in the practice of his profession and always ranked high as a physician.....In 1850 Dr.Deane and Col.W.T.Leeper went together across the Plains to California.....He was a prominent candidate for the United States Senate in 1854. The one who pens these lines feels a peculiar sadness as he looks back 40 years to the time when he -- then a boy -- was lying upon his sickbed away up in the Boston Mountains, not expected to recover..... Dr. Deane was sent for (and) came as quickly as his good steed could bear him....."

HENRY STARR:
"I robbed more banks than any man in America"

by W. J. Lemke

I first heard the name "Henry Starr" shortly after I came to Fayetteville in 1928. My informant was Zillah Cross Peel, one of the county's leading historians. Mrs.Peel told me that she was working in the office of the Bentonville Sun on that June day in 1893 when Starr and his boys robbed the Bentonville bank. I may be wrong on this, but I think her father, H.L. Cross, was publisher of the Sun. At any rate, Mrs. Peel told me that an employee of the Sun interrupted the Starr gang's get-away and recovered some of the money.

I drove up to Bentonville and saw the bullet marks in the bank's front. Those marks are still there -- and I never pass the bank (72) years after the robbery) without noting the bullet marks.

Asfor Henry Starr, I became better acquainted with him when I got to know Karl Greenhaw and J.C.Eagle, both members of our county historical society. Judge Greenhaw showed me the actual bullet that killed Henry Starr and Mr.Eagle showed me the story he wrote for the Harrison paper. Mr. Greenhaw was prosecuting attorney at Harrison and recorded Henry Starr's death-bed confession. He has the bullet in a little bottle in his office, next-door to our WCHS office. The lead pellet is flattened and shaped like a mushroom, so it evidently hit a bone, possibly Starr's spine.

The recent publication of "Henry Starr, Last of the Real Badmen", by Glenn Shirley (published by David McKay Co., Inc., New York, $4.50) suggested a book review, but because Washington County figured in Starr's career, we are publishing this account of the Oklahoma outlaw. Starr knew Jake Yoes of West Fork, who was Marshal in the court of Federal Judge Isaac Parker of Fort Smith. Also, when Starr's gang robbed the Bank of Bentonville, the McIlroy Bank of Fayetteville delivered $8,000 to Bentonville, to prevent any run on the bank.

Judge Greenhaw is reluctant to have us publish Henry Starr's death-bed confession, because the bandit named his accomplices, none of whom was ever brought before the Bar of justice. J. D. Eagle, as an ex-newspaper man, had no compunctions. He was an advertising man on the Harrison Times when he was summoned to the jail where Henry Starr lay dying. The story was covered by the Newman brothers, John, Tom and Fred. But J. D. Eagle went to the jail and then joined the posse that was thwarted by the Starr gang's burning their car on a culvert over Crooked Creek to keep the posse from following them.

We are reproducing Starr's dying statement (from the original in Karl Greenhaw's handwriting. And also J. D. Eagle's account of the death of Starr, as it was published in the Harrison Times. Forty years later (March 1, 1961) the Times reprinted Eagle's account, to which the author has added a preface. It appears below.

SHIRLEY'S BOOK

HENRY STARR, LAST OF THE REAL BADMEN, by Glenn Shirley, published by David McKay Company, Inc., New York, $4.50.

Highlights in the career of Henry Starr:

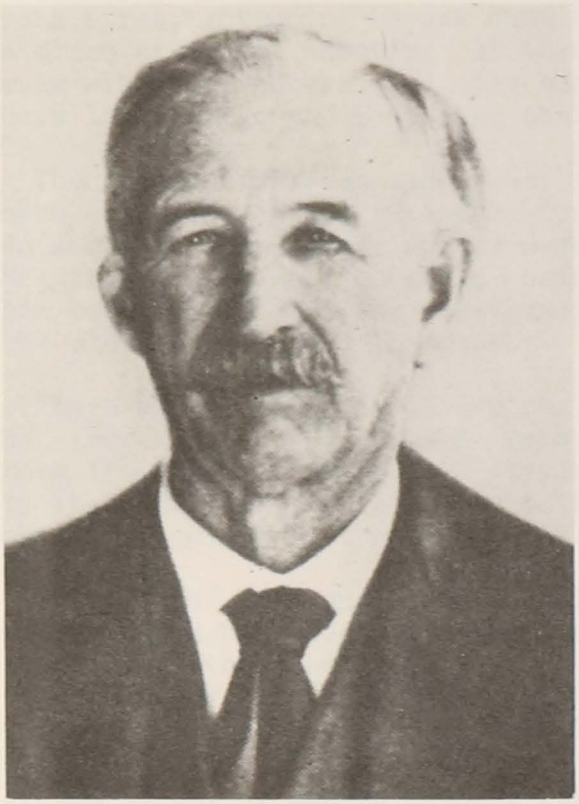
1873 O Born near Fort Gibson, Indian Territory
1892 - Shot and killed Deputy US Marshal Floyd Wilson
1893 - Robbed bank at Bentonville, Ark.
Sentenced to hang for murder of Wilson
1895 - Again sentenced to be hanged, after second trial
1897 - New trial ordered by US Supreme Court
Sentenced to 15 years in prison at Columbus, Ohio
1902 - Sentence commuted by Prs. Theodore Roosevelt
1909 - Sentenced to prison for robbing bank at Amity, Colo.
1913 - Paroled from Colorado prison
1915 - Sentenced to 25 years for bank robbery at Stroud, Okla.
1919 - Paroled from Oklahoma Penitentiary
1921 - Fatally wounded in bank robbery at Harrison, Ark.

The Bentonville Robbery

"The date was June 5m 1893. At 11:30 a.m. we started, aiming to make the 16 miles (from the outlaws' camp to Bentonville) in three hours. Cheney and I rode in the buggy and led our horses. The other four boys rode two and two about a mile apart. As we neared town we closed up and all got to a back street at the same time."

Starr and Cheney drove around the courthouse square into the alley behind the office of the Bentonville Sun. It was 2:30 p.m. Quickly the others followed and dismounted. Happy Jack held the reins of the six saddled horses while the rest snatched their rifles from under a blanket in the rear of the buggy and dog-trotted single file a half block north to the bank. Watt posted himself where he could cover the escape route to the horses. Cumplin was left on guard at the bank door. The door was open and Starr darted inside, Cheney and Kid Wilson at his heels. They prodded four surprised bank officials (President A.W.Dinsmore, I.R.Hull, J.H.McAndrew and George B. Jackson) and two customers against the wall with the usual salutation "Thumbs up and stand steady.", and proceeded to get the cash. Wilson leaped behind the counter. Cheney went inside the vault. Within five minutes they had all the loose money stuffed in two sacks -- one containing $1,000 in gold and currency, the other $900 in silver -- and were ready to go.

It had been time enough, however, for the people to realize their bank was being robbed. As the alarm spread, citizens seized rifles and shotguns and opened fire on Watt and Cumplin. Cumplin, who was walking back and forth below the bank, was getting it from all sides. Four or five men were shooting at him from across the street -O and hitting him -- with shotguns loaded with buckshot. When he tried to move down toward the horses, two men tried to pepper him from across the square. Happy Jack was trying to hold the horses and dodge the bullets from Sheriff Galbraith's rifle.



At left:

W. J. Meyers, the Harrison bank official who fired the fatal bullet at Henry Starr, the bank robber.

At right:

Henry Starr, "Last of the Badmen," fatally wounded in the holdup of the People's National Bank at Harrison. He died Feb. 22, 1921. His boast: "I robbed more banks than any man in America."

(See accompanying article in this issue)

Inside the bank, Starr took the sack of gold and currency and handed it to Assistant Cashier Jackson, giving Wilson and Cheney free hands with their Winchesters. He ordered the other captives to leave the bank first, intending to use them as a screen. But once outside, with a dozen citizens shooting at them, it was no more dangerous not to stay with the robbers, and they scattered in every direction. The robbers let them go and continued their march down South Main Street.

Then the unforeseen occurred. A young lady, employed as business manager in the office of the Bentonville Sun, saved the cashier's life. As Jackson, still carrying the sack of silver, passed the office, Miss Maggie Wood reached outside, seized him by the shoulders and jerked him bodily into the room. Before the robbers recovered from surprise, she closed and locked the door.

There was no time to recover the silver. The gunfire in the street had increased. The robbers' guns blazed. They drove Clint Croxdale back inside his drug store. Taylor Stone, a farmer, who was standing by the side of Craig's store taking aim with a shotgun, fell with a shot through the left groin.

Craig says only one horse was lost in this skirmish and that the posse turned back because of approaching darkness. The next day everyone came to town to learn the details of the holdup. President W. R. "Bob" McIlroy and Cashier J.L. Dickson of the McIlroy Bank at Fayetteville, arrived by train with $8,000 cash to meet the emergency until more money could be obtained from St.Louis. The loss totaled $11,001. To the people of Benton County, for years afterwards, the robbery was the topic of conversation when old-timers got together."

(Editor's note: Shirley's book recounts Starr's subsequent career, including bank holdups in Colorado. But Colorado made him a fugitive for parole violation and the old bank robbery indictment of Bentonville, Ark. was revived. Then, in the autumn of 1914 the first of the worst series of bank robberies occurred in Oklahoma. Fourteen banks were robbed between Sept. 8, 1914 and Jan. 13, 1915. On one day, Starr's gang held up two banks at the same time, at Stroud, Okla. Shirley's readable book concludes with an account of Starr's last holdup, at Harrison, Ark. This is an excerpt from his account. -- WJL)

The Harrison Robbery

"Friday morning, Feb. 18, 1921, Starr, with three companions, in a high-powered touring car, drove into Harrison, Ark. They cut all communications wires, then entered the People's National Bank.

"Starr gathered up about $6,000 and ordered Cashier G.C. Coffman to open the safe. When the bandits entered, brandishing revolvers, W.J. Meyers,60, former president of the bank, was standing near the vault. Unseen by Starr, he stepped into the vault and grasped a rifle hidden there for just such a purpose. The vault was used for bank papers and books, the safe being used for currency. Cashier Coffman stooped to open the safe as directed, Starr prodding him with his six-shooter and his companions keeping the other occupants of the bank covered, Starr, in his anxiety, stooped over to watch Coffman closely, and at that moment Meyers fired.

The bullet struck Starr in the right side below the ribs and passed through his spine. He fell to the floor and was overpowered before he could use his weapon. His companions fled from the building, jumped into their car and sped south. They obtained no money. Starr had stuffed all the cash into his pockets when he ordered the cashier to open the safe.

A posse formed quickly and started in pursuit,holding the bandits in sight for two miles when they stopped, set fire to their automobile and rushed into the woods. Sheriff J Sibley Johnson threw a cordon around the area, but the fugitives made their escape.

At the jail, Starr refused to identify his companions. "I cannot talk of them", he said. Physicians extracted the bullet and expressed the opinion he would recover, but Starr persisted in his conviction that he had only a short time to live. He sent his wife a telegram, telling her he was dying. On Saturday, he rallied to an extent that he hoped for recovery. But early Sunday he began to grow weaker and again abandoned hope. At 11 o'clock Tuesday morning he lapsed into unconsciousness. A few hours later, he was dead. His wife Hulda and Starr's aged mother, and his 17-year-old son were at his side. They accompanied his body to Dewey, Okla., for burial.

The day before he died, he boasted to his doctors at Harrison, Ark., "I've robbed more banks than any man in America."

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(Editor's note: J.D.Eagle wrote an editorial for the Harrison Daily Times, which the paper reprinted on the 40th anniversary of the death of Henry Starr. Here is Eagle's editorial. -- WJL)

HIS LAST GAME, or THE DEATH OF HENRY STARR

As advertising man and copy writer for the Times, I had covered the news of the robbery, at which time I may have written part or all of the editorial below. Many times since, I have wished that I might convey to my friends and fellowmen - and more especially to the scions of this generation which sees every law of God and man flouted andthe creeds, customs, and traditions come of weary centuries of trial and error cursed and cast aside by the maudlin mob in the "rat race" for conformity -- a measure of that significance and truth best exampled by the life of all outlaws and scoff-laws and so pertinently put in whispered accents from The Death Cell to echo down the prison corridors of the world.

"Go straight, boys; you can't beat the game; I've played my last game and lost" were among the last words of Henry Starr.

It was 10 o'clock of a chilly morning in the late winter. The little city of Harrison, Ark., was well along in its day's work. Only a few people were to be seen on the streets. A large highpowered touring car with yellow wheels drew up just outside the First National Bank on the square and three men got out and walked into the bank,leaving a fourth man in the car. Once inside the bank, these three men acted in a strangely different manner to that of honest depositors. They wanted to steal. And they backed up their nefarious designs with the menacing muzzles of their automatics.

KARL GREENHAW
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HARRISON, ARK.

I, Henry Starr, realizing that I am fatally wounded and believing that I am soon to depart this life and that I cannot possibly recover, do hereby make this as my dying statement that the persons who assisted me in robbing or attempting to rob the Peoples National Bank of Harrison, Arkansas on February 18th 1921, were Dave Lockhart of St Joe, Arkansas, and Rufus Rowland and Charley Brackett of Claremore, Oklahoma Lockhart was driving the car and remained on the outside so he would not be seen and identified, while Charley Brackett and Rufus Rowland and I went in the bank to get the money.

I further state that Dave Lockhart, Rufus Rowland and I lined up and robbed the Bank of Seligman Missouri about December 20th 1920

Witness my hand this the 21st day of February 1921 at 7:30 P.M.

Witnesses to statements and signature:
J. S. Johnson Sheriff.
D. C. Gurnett
W. A. Kennicott

Henry Starr was one of these men. He coveted the cash in that institution. And while his companions covered the cashier and the other occupants of the bank, he counted the currency. But two things he forgot to count -- time and the man, W.J.Myers. "Work fast" said Starr to the cashier, "you are not working for the bank now. You are working for me." And having caused the big safe to be unlocked, he was on the point of reaching out to sweep into the sack -- a pillow slip which he carried -- the stacks of "simoleons" revealed to view. And then, man proposes and God disposes" a shot rang out, and Fate stepped in and presented her checks. Could the gold of the bank pay these off? Had Henry Starr saved against the time of need? God only know, since He keeps "The Accounts", yet keeps them correctly.

Do we have a sixth sense? Did Henry Starr get an intimation from "The Other Side", that he, in turn would soon be called upon to cash these checks -- mayhap worthless ones -- that Fate had carried for him all his life, at the Bank of Mercy in the City of Souls, when he said: "I have played my last game and lost"?

A solemn scene, that, in yonder cell of the county jail on that gray afternoon in February, to see the famous outlaw lying there on a cot, scarcely narrower than the cell itself, with less than a hundred hours from the passing of the sentence by the Judge of The Court of L st Resort. suffering intensely, and with his life's blood seeping through the cotton bandage about his waist, through the thin mattress on his cot, to fall, drip, drip, drip in a shallow pool upon the concrete floor of his cell, was there a something told him, despite the hope of the surgeon to the contrary, that never again would be see the boundless sweep of the prairies, nor feel again the breath of spring upon his cheeks as he thrilled to the canter of the cayuse upon the trackless plains.

What musthave been his feelings as his eyes sought the barred windows looking out toward the West where lay the land of his forefathers, where the buffalo once roamed and where he might be, even now, a Free Man?

As if in a vision he must have heard the Judge of all the earth call his "case" and seen the Angel go forth with the summons to bring him into court before His Judgment Bar, else whence the intimation, and why the words: "Go straight, boys; you can't beat the game", which now come from the lips of the lawless who must needs pay the price of his misdeeds with his life. Twenty-four, forty-eight, seventy-two, ninety-nine and one-half hours -- almost to the moment -- from the time he walked into that institution which safe-guarded alike the savings of talent and of toil until he answered the summons which he must have heard in the whistle of that leaden messenger just four days previous.

The springtime will come, and out there on the prairie the blue anemones will raise their heads to greet the morning sun and keep their skyward vigil till the day is done; the gophers will build their nests in the turf to tease and tumble the unwary horseman; and the Western winds will sing a requiem at eventide in the fields of waving sedge. And over it all will hover the brooding presence of "The Great Spirit."

But not for Henry Starr will the flowers bloom, nor the gophers play; not for him will the gates of"The Happy Hunting Grounds" swing inward, until his spirit is purged of the dross which caused him to covet the product of another man's toil, so much so that he would bring upon himself the curse of Cain.

"Go Straight, boys; you can't beat the game" echoes and re-echoes from the tomb of him who might have been a Man, even as God intended he sould be.

-- J. D. EAGLE

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"THE CORMAN'S PHILOSOPHY"

Campus memories of more than 50 years ago are harder to come by than the recollection of more recent events. But a few old-timers, including Musician Mary Cummings Bateman, will recall a young violin teacher at the University by the name of Ramon Adams. His name is in the faculty lists for two or three years around 1912-14. His name is also in the Washington County marriage book, coupled with that of a local girl named Allie Jarman. They were married by the Rev.M.L.Gillespie.

So it comes as somewhat of a surprise to find the name of Ramon Adams in a new historical-literary quarterly -- "American West" -- not at all in connection with music but as a well-known interpreter of the "Cowman's Philosophy", and a historian and writer of stories of the Old West.

In connection with a feature article in the Fall 1965 number of "American West", a personal sketch of Ramon Adams includes this statement: "....invited to head the violin department of the U of Arkansas, Adams went to Fayetteville, and while on the faculty there he married Allie Jarman...."

Continuing, the sketch summarizes a most interesting career of a man engaged in a successful career as musician and orchestra leader; his work as a violinist cut short by the crank of a Model T; followed by a prominent career as a business man of Dallas; and finally as an interpreter of the life and times of the old Southwest. "The Cowman's Philosophy" is an absorbing article, so much so that I took a gift book from the shelf, and read with interest Adams' book "Come and Get It", the story of the old cowboy cook.

-- Deane G. Carter

THE HERMANNS OF OLD HERMANNSBURG is one of the best of the booklets published by the WCHS. It deals with German families who settled here before the Civil War, and contributed much to the early development of the county; they also took out considerable wealth which they had gained in the process. One reader says "If this book had been titled 'The Story of Dutch Mills', it would be sold out in a very short time. Price is $2 and only a few copies are still available. Address the Secretary, WCHS, Box 237, Fayetteville, Ark.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Check for $13 enclosed for membership, index, and donation. I have received great enjoyment in reading FLASHBACK, a true labor of love.

Miss Natica Holmsley,
Alden Park Manor, Philadelphia 44, Penna.

I'm truly proud to be a member of this wonderful society. I hope I can locate some of my Shannon line that lived in your beautiful county in 1839.

Mrs Raymond Teller,
208 Bird St., San Angelo, Texas

Have received a great deal of pleasure from your magazine. Keep up the good work.

Kenton Garrison,
9 Robin Hood Rd., Morris Plains, N.J.

Keep the good work going. Wish I could be there to help. Have enjoyed each copy of Flashback. Thanks to all of you for the wonderful history you are preserving.

Mrs.S.D.Troutman, Hazleton, Indiana

Does anyone have any information on the Mr. Walker who married Nancy Fletcher, b 1815 Buncombe, NC, daughter of Joseph Fletcher who lived in Davidson Co., Tenn., ca. the Civil War? Joseph Fletcher b 1795, Buncombe Co., NC, died 1830 Davidson Co., Tenn., was son of William Fletcher who came from Rappahannock, Va. to Buncombe Co., NC in 1790, then to Huntsville, Ala. 1815.

Alice Fletcher Hicks,
885 N. 10th E., Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

Enclosed $3 for another year of Flashback. I really enjoyed the articles about the University. I was a small girl walking across the campus from University street to Leverett School.My brother and I marched with the ROTC boys, rode in the Homecoming parade and played football and kick-the-can with a lot of University students. I sure miss all the good times we used to have there. The freshman caps and paddles, Hell Week. The dances were by night for us kids. We would sit up in bed and watch next door until we fell asleep. Keep the Flashback coming -- I enjoy every word.

Mrs. John Reeder,
4545 Campus St., San Diego, Calif. 92116

I am seeking information about James F. Dunagan (1825-1910), son of Daniel Dunagan Jr. (1802-1857). I am trying to find at what date James F. went to Ark. He had a son who lived near Prairie Grove. His name was Daniel Lafayette Dunagan who married Nancy Haws. Daniel Dunagan Jr was my great-grandfather.

In looking through old letters of my grandfather Link, who married 2nd a Dunagan, sister of James, I found a letter from Robert Medearis of Cincinnati, written in 1884, in which he addresses my grandfather Link as Dear Cousin. We never knew of any Medearis in the family. Can you tell me if there is a Medearis family of any kind now living in Washington County that I may get in touch?

Mabel Link Buzzard,
PO Box 93, Racine, Missouri 64858

A FAMILY PHOTO OF 90 YEARS AGO

The picture on the accompanying page is reproduced from a tintype loaned to us by Wilma Basore, one of our members who lives on Route 2, Elkins, Ark. The picture, to judge from the arrangement, backdrop, etc., was taken by a traveling photographer, and is a fine example of the work of horse-and-buggy photographers of 90 years ago.

In answer to our request for identification, Mrs. Basore wrote to her husband's uncle, Harry Basore of Henryetta, Okla. He answered as follows::

> "Here are the names of the people on the tintype: Standing left to right, my half-sister Mary Basore, her husband Chas. Olmstead, and my father, A.D.Basore. Front row, sitting:y grandmother Aseneth Pierson and my mother Mary A . Basore. The children from left to right: Joe (standing); Willie (on grandmother's lap); standing between grandmother and mother is Frank and on mother's lap is George.
>
> "The picture was made about 1871 because George was born in that year and he is a baby in the picture. He was 7 years older than me and I was born in 1878. The picture must have been made at Burdett, Mo. My father laid off that town and named it after the first governor of Missouri.That was about 1870. Father and Charles Olmstead were both in the Union Army.
>
> "The following incident happened some time in 1899. Father had been up to Iowa to see sister Mary Olmstead and mother. Maude and I met him at Lowell on the Frisco and on the way home we camped at a big spring on the Mike Fitch farm. Just as we were getting ready to leave, Mr.Fitch came down to the spring and he and father were talking. The conversation turned to wheat, as Mr.Fitch was the largest wheat raiser in Madison County, Ark., and father being a miller was also interested in wheat. In the course of the conversation Mr. Fitch said 'You know, before the battle of Pea Ridge I had 1500 bushels of wheat and Price's army impressed it and took it up to Cross Hollows and the damyankees captured it and ground it all up.' My father said, 'Yes, Mr.Fitch, I am the very damyankee that ground up your wheat!'"
>
> - Uncle Harry

Mrs. Basore adds the following information:

"My husband's father, George W. Basore, the baby in his mother's lap (on the right in the picture) was born in Bates Co., Mo., so Uncle Harry is probably right about saying the picture was made in Burdette, Mo. Grandfather A bram Basore, on the right in the picture, was about 34 years old when he enlisted in the 44th Illinois. He fought in the battle of Pea Ridge. He and grandmother both are buried in the National Cemetery in Fayetteville (where the headstones form a star).

"Charles Olmstead and his wife (grandfather's daughter by his first wife) lived in Springdale until their death. Their daughter Nellie was the wife of "Stony" Graham who was well known in Springdale.

"I have explained, haven't I, that "Uncle Harry" Basore is a younger brother of my husband's father, Geo. W. Basore?"

-- Wilma Basore

THE BASORE FAMILY

Left to right, back row: Mary Basore and her husband, Charles Olmstead, and A. D. Basore; the women in the front row are Grandmother Pierson and mother Mary A. Basore.

(See article on accompanying page, by Wilma Basore of our Society)

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"1839-1841 Tax Record of Marshall County, Tenn., has been published by Deane Porch, Route 2, River Road, Nashville, Tenn. 37209. The mimeo book is 123 pages. Price is $5.

"Hull Families in the U.S." has been published by William E. Hull, 2032 South Dade St., Pasadena, Texas. The book is 6x9, bound in hard covers, and includes eight separate family lines. Price is $4.75.

A reprint of "Family and Military Records from Spence's History of Hickman County, Tennessee" is now available. 202 pages of records, mimeographed and bound. Price $5. Order from Mrs. H.P.Leeper, 1112 17th Ave. South, Nashville, Tenn.

The Womack Printing Company, McMinnville, Tennessee, sent us a list of eight of their books, including "Marriage Records of Warren County, Tenn" $6; 1850 Census of Warren County, Tenn. $4.50; "Early History of Warren County" $2.50; "Campaigns of 16th Tennessee Volunteers" $5; and "Descendants of Rev. Richard Denton", $5. Write the Womack Company for complete list. Address: 114 College St., McMinnville, Tenn. 37110

"Index of Pennsylvania Deed Abstracts" is published by Eastern Indiana Publishing Co., Box 57, Knightstown, Ind. 56148. Volume I (completely indexed) of Lancaster County, Pa. from 1729 to 1766, covering Deed Books A through K, by R.Thomas Mayhill, has been completed. Contains about 8,000 name references. Book has 160 pages and 4 maps. The price is $10. Rental copies are available. Write to the publisher.

"Early Records of Nacogdoches County, Texas" may be obtained fromthe author and publisher, Mrs. R.G.Murrie,3601 Gorman, Waco, Texas. Price of the book is $10. - wchs -

The January issue of the Library of Congress Information Bulletin contains a tribute to James B. Childs, specialist in government document bibliography, who retired on Dec.30. Quoting: "In the Library of Congress, Mr. Childs is well known for his individual personality, his amazingly detailed knowledge of governmental structure and documentation throughout the world, and his indefatigable zeal in enriching the collections of the Library with rare and elusive government publications." Our first contact with Mr.Childs was some 12 or so years ago, when he told us that a former Fayetteville lawyer, Nathan B. Williams, was the father of Rural Free Delivery. We published this story. Since then Mr. Childs has sent us material on the pioneer Boone family of our county.

"MARRIAGE RECORDS for Washington County, 1845-1869" is the title of No. 49 in the Booklet Series of the Washington County Historical Society. This 65-page booklet, compiled by Deane G. Carter, secretary, includes all of the marriages -- some 3,000 -- recorded in the county in the 25-year period. About 750 marriages are transcribed for the first time. Also for the first time, the lists, arranged by years, are in alphabetical order, both as to brides' names and grooms' names, and printed in a 2-column format for ready reference. First printing of this booklet is limited to 100 copies. It is mimeographed on heavy white paper, and plastic-bound to lie flat when open. Order from the Washington County Historical Society, PO Box 237, Fayetteville, Ark. Price $3.

SOME NOTES ON THE CALDWELLS

(See picture on facing page)

We are in receipt of a letter from A. B. Caldwell, who is a Law graduate of the U of Arkansas and is now an attorney with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. (PO Box 7168, Apex Station, Washington, D.C.). A.B. says he enjoys the Flashback a lot, partly because two of his uncles had teaching careers in northwest Arkansas, and partly because of the "Campus Memories" which we are publishing. Here is an excerpt from his letter:

Dear Uncle Walt:

I am still working on the genealogy of my family. Because of the interesting (to me, at least) careers of some members of the family, I am trying to prepare something more than a chart of the ancestors with only dates of births and deaths. I want to prepare brief character sketches or profiles of certain members.

Two of my father's brothers were teachers at the turn of the century and both taught in schools in northwest Arkansas. Benjamin H. Caldwell was president of Pea Ridge Normal Institute from 1898 through 1901. A letter from Alvin Seamster at Garfield confirms this statement.

Another uncle was Prof. James H. Caldwell who taught at Salem, Ark., and Mammoth Spring, then took over the schools at Harrison, Ark., 1900 to 1903, following which he was Principal of the public schools in Prairie Grove 1903 through 1907.

As a matter of possible interest and for the files of the Society, I am enclosing a picture of the family of Thomas Benton Caldwell, who had something to do with the early history of northwest Arkansas. The picture is of Thomas Benton Caldwell, his wife and five children. It was taken in 1890. Grandfather, Thomas B., is the old gent with the whiskers and that's his wife Lucinthia seated near him. The little fellow in between is my father, John H. Caldwell.

(Editor's note: John H. Caldwell was Librarian of the Supreme Court of Arkansas when he died in 1959. - WJL)

Standing in the rear are four other children: Benjamin H. Caldwell, who became head of Pea Ridge Normal in 1898 and served as such until 1901; James H. Caldwell who was superintendent of schools at Prairie Grove in 1905, then later became professor of history at Oklahoma A&M, where he taught until he died in 1942 after raising a family of ten children. The other two on the picture are Ruth and Jo-Ann Caldwell.

Thomas Benton Caldwell, the father, is the one who we believe participated in the battle of Pea Ridge and who was captured a few days later in Douglas County, Mo. on March 9, 1862, taken as a prisoner to St. Louis and exchanged at Vicksburg. Then he returned to Horsehead, Ark. and re-enlisted and served with Richard Musser's Battlaion of the Confederate Army.

Enough for now about my ancestors. If it were not for you and Allan Humphreys, I would still be ignorant of much of what my ancestors did.

-- A. B. CALDWELL

THE THOMAS BENTON CALDWELL FAMILY

Left to right, standing — Ben H. Caldwell, James H. Caldwell, Ruth Caldwell, Joe-Ann Caldwell.

Front row, seated — Thomas Benton Caldwell and his wife Lucinthia. Standing between them is John H. Caldwell.

(See notes on the Caldwells on accompanying page. Photo and information from Thomas Benton Caldwell's grandson, A. B. Caldwell, of Washington, D.C., who is a member of our historical society.)

ANNUAL MEETING
of the
Washington County Historical Society
Fayetteville Public Library, Jan. 23, 1966

With President John A.Redd presiding, the following program was presented: Introductions, by W.J.Lemke; Tribute to the late Roy A. Scott, by George F. Caudle; Presentation of "Distinguished Citizen" award to Alcuin "Cap" Eason, by John A. Reed; Address: "Forty Years in the County Court House", by Lloyd McConnell, circuit clerk; Report of the secretary-treasurer, by Deane G. Carter.

Officers of the WCHS for 1966 were announced as follows: President, L. W. Searcy; vice-president, Bernice Karnes; secretary-treasurer, Deane G. Carter; editor, W.J.Lemke. These four officers and the following members constitute the board of directors: Grace Albright, Tom Feathers, W. J. Good, Karl Greenhaw, Tom Lavender, Ruth Morris, Davis P. Richardson, John A. Reed.

The following is quoted from the secretary's report: "The growth of the Society (to 600 in 1965) is due in large part to the quality and quantity of its publications and to the other activities in behalf of Washington County history. In 1965 we published five issues of FLASHBACK and two numbers in our booklet series; awarded two Distinguished Citizen citations; erected four historical markers. Several libraries were aided in completing their files of WCHS publications. We estimate that more than 4,500 pieces of mail were prepared and dispatched in the year. And it should be noted that almost all of the work connected with the operation of the Society is volunteered, and without pay."

The treasurer's report showed a budget of $4,526.20, of which $1223.95 was on hand Jan. 1, 1965 and $3,303.25 was received during the year. Receipts came from membership dues (about $1,800), $165 donated for markers, $100 in miscellaneous contributions; two $100 life member donations; and around $1,000 from the sale of old Flashbacks and Booklets. (One library, for example, bought almost $200 worth.)

Expenditures for 1965 totaled $3,622.Excess of outgo over income was $319.67. The deficit is accounted for by failure to collect the $500 appropriation made by the Quorum Court. We hope to obtain this fund when the county accounts are finally settled. Expenditures in 1965 were as follows:

Historical markers.....	$ 610.00
Supplies, paper, etc.....	703.28
Rent of office.....	204.00
Postage, bulk mail, etc.....	283.10
Photography, copying.....	155.11
Printing picture pages.....	1,316.40
Binding library copies.....	86.50
Labor and services.....	104.63
Miscellaneous.....	159.00
	$3,622.02

We made a significant saving by utilizing the non-profit bulk rate for mailing. Much greater saving is made by using the Volunteer services of the officers for editing, stenciling, mimeographing, mailing, etc. By effecting these and other economies, we are able to put the Society's money to use for paper, postage, printing and supplies -- in other words, our money goes mainly to finding, editing and publishing the history of Washington County and its people. -- DGC

ROY A. SCOTT

Flashback does not usually publish obituaries of our departed members. Our Society has lost many helpers during the years, among them F.S.Root, Jobelle Holcombe, Fount Richardson, Rowena Gallaway,and Oscar E. Williams -- to name only a few. But the death of Roy A. Scott on New Year's eve had hurt where we are most vulnerable -- in dedicated service to the pioneer past.

Roy knew Washington County well, having visited all sections of the county during his campaigns for public office. He had friends in every township. He served as County Clerk for ten years and then was Mayor of Fayetteville four years. At the time of his death he was collector of delinquent taxes and his office was next door to our WCHS office. I saw him every day, at our coffee breaks and on our frequent strolls down Smoky Row and around the Square.

Roy Scott was proud of his pioneer Arkansas ancestry. He served two terms as president of our historical Society and promoted many of our activities. I think the tribute he would like best would be to reprint the biography of his grandfather (from Goodspeed 1889, a copy of which he owned and of which he was most proud). Roy's own biography appears in "Arkansas Lives", published just a year ago.

Here is the editorial tribute that appeared in the Northwest Arkansas Times:

(Editorial in the Northwest Arkansas Times, Jan. 4, 1966):

ROY A. SCOTT

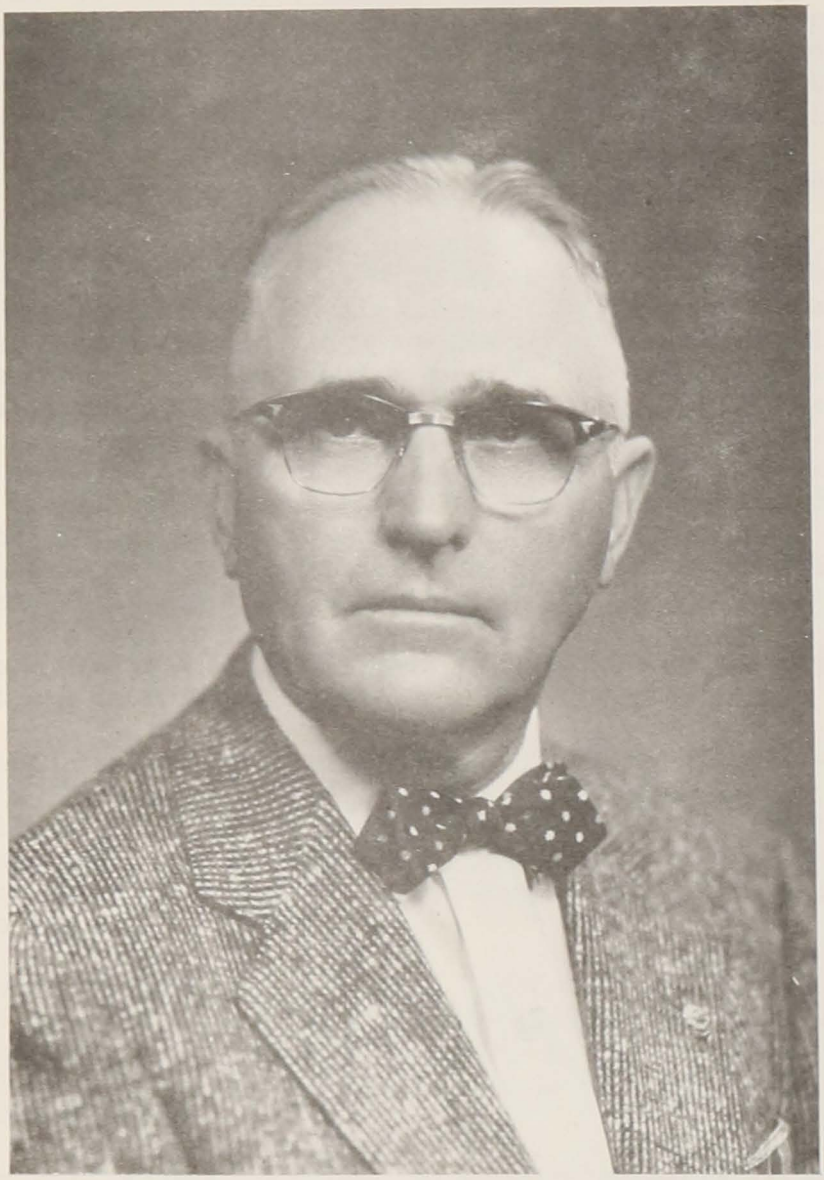
For a large part of his life Roy A. Scott was in the business of serving the public. He did his job well. His unfailing courtesy, His continuing willingness, and his friendly attitude became familiar to thousands through the years when he served in several official capacities, including clerk of Washington County and Mayor of Fayetteville.

He took part in many undertakings, and in more recent years was particularly active and interested in the affairs of the Washington County Historical Society. His advice and readiness to help whenever the need presented itself were widely appreciated.

He had seen Fayetteville grow from a village to its present state, and was instrumental not only in pushing the progress along, but in marking for the future events of the past so that generations to come might know the facts. His years of service made a mark on history of this community and this area.

- wchs -

ROY A. SCOTT



Born April 14, 1890 — Died Dec. 31, 1965

Charter member and former president of the Washington County Historical Society. His services to the community include: Ten years as County Clerk, six years as member of City Council, four years as Mayor of Fayetteville, City Hospital board, board of Central Methodist Church, president of Lions Club, etc. His greatest achievement was his friendship — with many hundreds of his neighbors in Washington County.

"Campus Memories"

THE AUDITORIUM IN OLD MAIN

Many famous and near-famous persons have appeared on the stage in the auditorium of Old Main. Aalso, many miscellaneous programs have been presented there. Among the latter were the football reports from out-of-town games. I don't know who got the money, but there were always 500 to 700 persons in the auditorium to watch the little white ball move up and down the blackboard gridiron as Western Union delivered the reports from Dallas or Austin. This, of course, was a far cry from today's radio and TV coverage. But it was the best we had.

As publicity director, I saw and heard most of the lectures, concerts, etc., that were staged in the Old Main auditorium (called "Chapel" by earlier student generations). I remember one speaker especially -- Richard Halliburton, who had swum the Hellespont and had written some best-sellers about his adventurous career. But it wasn't because of the great Halliburton that I remember this evening. It was because the auditorium was jam-packed when my good friend, Miss Nannie Caughey, came to the door. I had enough influence to get her into the hall and I got "Pop" Gregson to place a chair for her on the stage. So she sat in close proximity to her hero -- whose books she had read. She told me later that he wasn't as glamorous as she had imagined him to be. I drove her home that night -- she lived east of Mt. Sequoyah -- while Halliburton went back to his world-wide adventures. He never saw Miss Caughey's farm, with a million roses cascading over the stone walls. His interest was in foreign lands.

Another performance in the auditorium of Old Main that I will never forget was a "Fashion Show", staged by the UofA sororities. A runway had been built from the stage to the rear of the hall, and the models paraded up and down said runway. But what gave me my big thrill was the master of ceremonies was Prof. John Clark Jordan, who described the dresses that the models wore.

As for the auditorium in Old Main -- if I didn't like the comedy or tragedy that was being presented, I could always look up at the marble tablet on the south wall that paid tribute to Ella Carnall, for whom Carnall Hall is named. She must have been quite a person and I wish I could have known her.

There have been student weddings and student funerals in the auditorium in Old Main.

On one occasion a section of the ceiling plaster in the auditorium fell down, but luckily injured no one. It took a day or two to clean up the plaster. What the cleaners didn't know was that the journalism department was directly below the auditorium. As a matter of fact, before the journalism department moved to the Basement of Old Main, the rooms which we occupied as offices had been the dressing rooms for stage plays presented upstairs. The first thing we did when journalism moved down there, was to tear out that stairway. Nobody ever walked from my office up that stairway to the stage of the auditorium.

"Campus Memories"

A BASKETBALL NOTE OR TWO

The photo of Glen Rose -- now the Razorback basketball coach but in 1926 just a candidate for the team -- is from the photo collection of Miss Grace Albright of our Society. In this picture "BigGlen" is palming two basketballs, an achievement today as it was 40 years ago.

Sometime during World War II, I published an all-star Arkansas basketball team -- made up of players that I had seen in action. I have been unable to find my copy of this first all-star Arkansas cage team, but it'll turn up as soon as my Missus lets me get into the attic.

Just from memory, no statistics, I recall these basketball stars -- Johnny Adams, Jim Benton, Tom Murphy, Don Lockhart, Tom Pieckell, and these added starters: Kok, Robbins, Schoonover, Lambert, Poole and Creighton. There were others. But if there is one Razorback that I'd like to see again, in action on the basketball court, it is Johnny Adams. He was a picture player and a deadeye shot.

Just for the record, I'll relate one Johnny Adams incident that occurred during World War II. Johnny was an officer in the Navy. Sometime, somewhere in the Pacific, he received orders transferring him to another ship. I think it was the USS Arkansas, but am not too sure -- my memory being what it is. Anyway, when he reported aboard his new station, he was given his accumulated mail. Plus the information that he was the ship's Information Officer. When he protested that he knew nothing about "Information", he was shown a bunch of letters, all from "Department of Journalism, U. of Arkansas", which led to the supposition that he was a journalism graduate and an information "expert". Johnny told me this himself, after the war. But to this day I do not know how Johnny Adams ranked in spelling or grammar. I do know that he was deadeye on the basketball court, with his jump shot (no arch), and that he won many games for the Razorbacks.

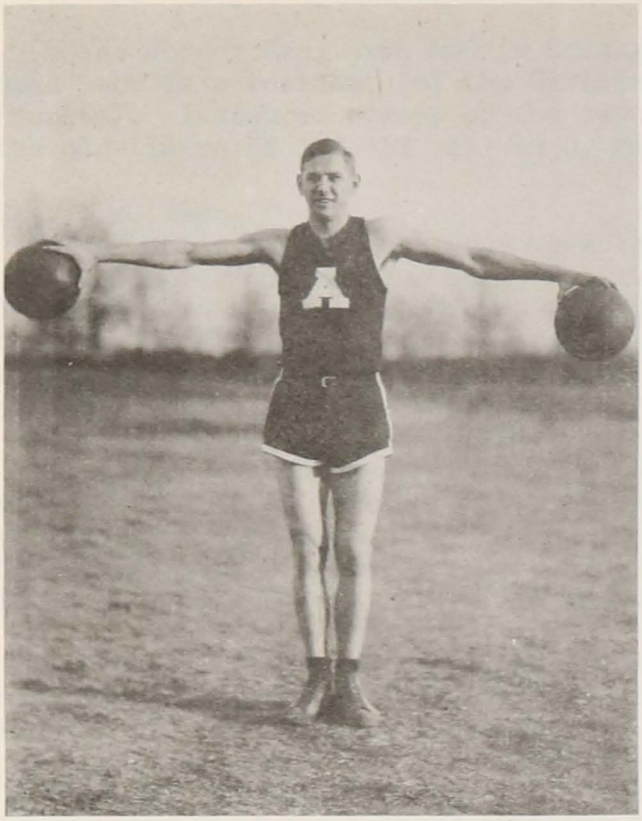
I could reminisce at length about some of the other players on my all-star team. But I'll tell just one more story, of a play I witnessed. The UofA recruiters had found a 7-foot (make that 6-11) player in Michigan, and induced him to enroll at the UofA. He was George Kok, who still holds a number of scoring records.

In one game -- I do not remember the opposing team -- Kok was dribbling down the floor, trying to get in shooting range. The defender, a foot shorter than Kok, was between Kok and the basket. The Guard stopped suddenly and Kok performed a double loop over him, and came down on the gym floor on his face. That cost the UofA athletic department for a new set of teeth for its Michigan import. He was wearing dentures.

I think much of the Razorbacks' success in the old days was due to a combination of passing and shooting skill and purepower. Personally, I liked to watch the graceful players (Adams, Murphy, Schoonover, Lockhart, Robbins) but I never sold the Power Boys short (Lambert, Hickey, Creighton, Benton, Freiberger, Carpenter, Poole, Wynne).

These are just words to introduce "Big Glen" Rose on the accompanying page. Never saw Glen play basketball, but I have seen him in many other situations and activities and am proud that he has remained my friend, for 38 years.

-- WJL

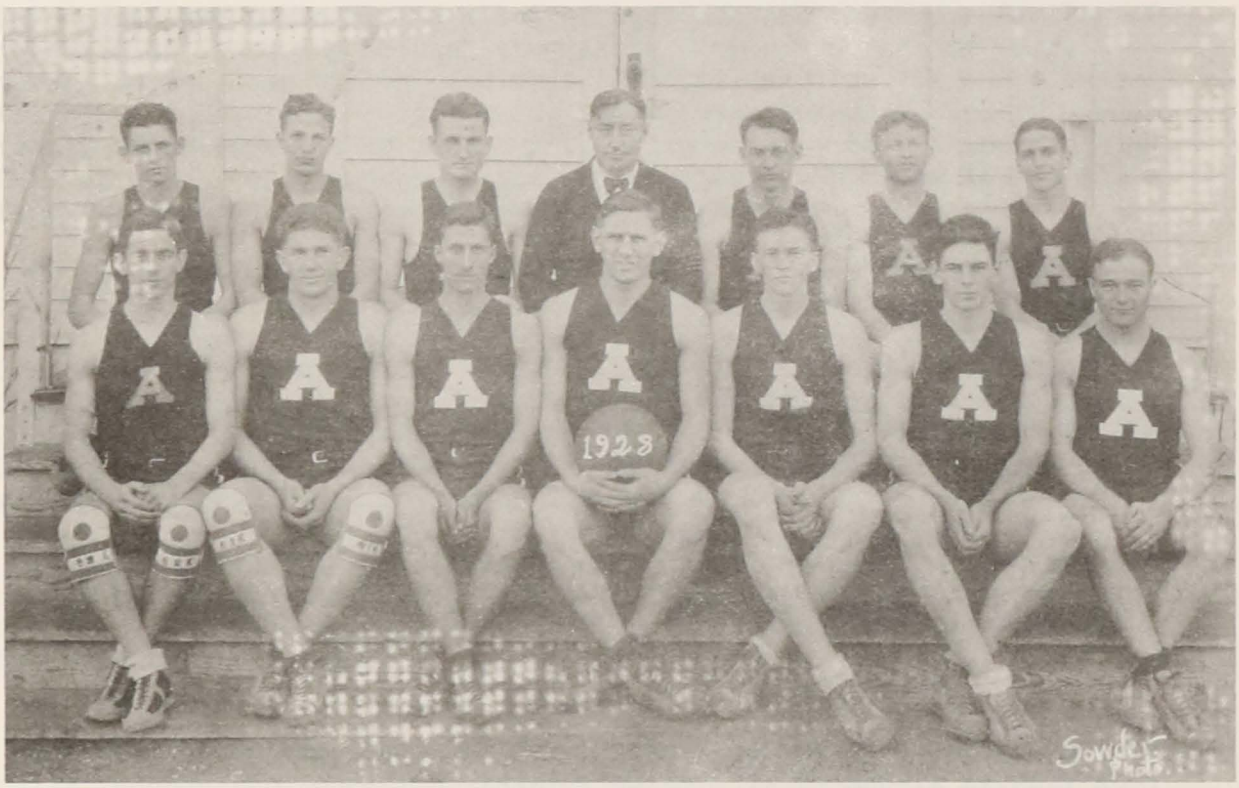


GLEN ROSE
as an undergraduate

(Below):

The championship team of 1928, with Glen Rose as captain.

Both photos from Miss Grace Albright's collection.



CAMPUS MEMORIES OF A TV VETERAN

(Note: Johnny Erp, with NBC in Chicago, wrote a letter to Mrs.Lessie Read who is a resident of the Geriatrics Ward in Fayetteville's City Hospital. I secured a copy of the letter and am printing excerpts. The old-timers of '28-'32 will enjoy Johnny's reminiscences. -- WJL)

Dear Mrs. Read:

Uncle Walt's latest note gave me a lead on where you are, hence this note which is long overdue you, but since this is the Yuletide season I thought I'd like to talk for a few moments to an old friend and also thank her for helping when I needed it most - when I was a freshman at the U of A. You gave me a job on the Fayetteville paper, so that you gave a freshman all the inspiration he needed.

I'm now in my 28th year with NBC, and at the moment I'm doing only sports -- my first love -- for both TV and radio. But it seems only yesterday that I was double-dating with Marvin Hurley and working at Ma Beavers' boarding house and running around the Square and even taking a date into Budd's theater at times. We had privacy there.

Fayetteville and its many fine people will always be No. 1 in our memories. It was there I met my wife in Dr.Hotz's education class. (I flunked his course but passed hers.). I also flunked one of Prof. passarelli's courses. I'll always remember George and Theo. Those Greeks knew me better than even my own mother did. In fact, they could fix me some food and I liked anything they fixed.

I'll never forget Billy Rose and his uke and Jim Bohart and his typewriter, and those Gold sisters, Mabel and Maude. Likewise, Kate Davenport was an angel to a lot of us. She had the happy faculty of not hearing or seeing things she wasn't supposed to see or hear. I'll never forget Dean Ripley and that colorful headline in the A rkansas Traveler "fun edition" which said: "Dirty Dog Wets Dean Ripley." What really happened was that some guy upstairs in Buck Hall dropped a sack full of water on the dean as he was passing by. Maybe it was all a fanciful yarn but that headline stuck in my memory.

Dr.Futrall always was nice to me and even mentioned my patched pants in his orientation speech (without using my name). But the two of us knew the story and that's all that really mattered. I still recall Fred Hawn and Johnny Porter and Mr. Pate of Rogers and Mr.Stafford of Springdale. And I'll never forget Francis Schmidt and Bevo Beavers and George Cole, Glen Rose, Pear Schoonover and Clyde VanSickle. Even Charlie Stone and his book store have a few happy memories. Charlie sold me books on credit and tossed an IOU back at me.

It seems I had only good friends any place I went. I've always been around people who cared. So, it's with this spirit that I say my thanks from the bottom of my heart to an old good friend, and wish you only the best this Yuletide.

** JOHNNY ERP

(Editor's note: Mrs.Read was for 27 years editor of the Fayetteville daily. Johnny Erp, one-time Traveler editor, is on NBC-TV nightly at 5 and will add another sports show at 10 p.m. The Erps' son Mike, senior at Furman U., spent the Christmas holidays with his parents at the home at 810. President Ave., Wheaton, Ill. -- WJL)

LETTERS FROM READERS

Enclosed $5 for 1966 dues and a copy ofTHe Oldest Bank in Arkansas". I am still searching for our ancestors, Maurice Clement and wife Arlcy and Dr. Wm. E. Throckmorton and second wife Melinda Clement, who left northwest Arkansas for Texas in the fall of 1845. The WCHS is best for two things: 1) The people who edit and run the Society are the best and friendliest people one can know; and 2) the way the magazine and books are written, one just can't help but feel kin to them.

Forrest Caniell,
3611 Sunset, Houston, Tex. 77005

I am enclosing check for a copy of the "History of Tontitown". I was glad to read in the latest Flashback (wonderful issue!) that the Tontitpwn book is still available. I have wanted a copy all along. But my immediate wish for one is to have it on hand to show to one J.F.Remington, who attended the Rogers Academy when I did (pre-1910), and incidentally gave me my first driving lesson, in which I was not a very apt pupil. I have recently learned that he gave Father Bandini of Tontitown his first driving lesson -- in fact, taught him to drive his first car. The said JFR will be driving through Little Rock on his way to Florida and will stop here for a little reminiscing. I thought this would be a good time to get the WCHS history of Tontitown and have it on hand for him to see, and reminisce about, since time has erased much from the mind that happened before 1910.

Congratulations on the new Flashback. The pictures are very fine,and happily for me, they are of people I know or have known, even though they were taken since my student days at the UofA.

Clara B. Kennan,
1615 Battery St., Little Rock, Ark.

Our Society is gradually building up a genealogical library. The latest addition to our collection is a copy of "Early Records of Nacodoches County, Texas". This was given to us by the author and publisher, Mrs. R. G. Murrie, 3601 Gorman, Waco, Texas.

This is a beautifully printed and bound (cloth) book of 160 pages. These "Early Records" are superbly organized, under such section headings as "1837 Tax Roll, 1845 Tax Roll, Index to US Census for 1850, Register of Voters 1867, Mortality Schedules, AF&AM Lodges, Will Books A and B (1843-1903), Some Early Citizens (biographies) and an Index of Surnames."

Mrs. Murrie says in a "Foreword" that her work is not intended to be a History of Nacogdoches County but rather a source book of its earlier inhabitants." She does not state the cost of the book, but we recommend to several of our members who are planning similar compilations for their county, and all who had kinsmen in Nacogdoches County, ought to have a copy of this book. Local WCHS members can consult the volume at our office. Others can write to Mrs. Murrie at the above address.

- wchs -

In answer to several queries, Flashback's picture pages are produced by Shofner's Printers in Rogers, Ark. Jim Shofner has an offset printer (Wayne Brandon) who takes special pride in his historical work and has given us superb service during the years.

Spaghetti Dinner
at the home of Charlie Stone about 1930.

(Left to right: Prof. Luigi Passarelli, Prof. Harry Strauss, Charlie Stone, Prof. A. Marinoni, and Prof. A. E. Lussky. Feet at lower right, unidentified. Photographer, W. J. Lemke.)

This is a faculty group that frequently indulged in dinners that included such exotic dishes as spaghetti with anchovy sauce, Wisconsin muskellunge Greek style, and other fancy foods. The dinners were usually held in the apartment of Professor Strauss at the Ida Gregg apartments on Gregg street. When Passarelli and Strauss broke up housekeeping, there was quite an argument as to which pots and pans belonged to whom.

Charlie Stone was a gracious host. One summer when he was vacationing in northern Wisconsin, he sent us a 30-lb. muskellunge, which George Pappas baked for us at the Majestic. John had to cut the big fish in half in order to get it in the oven, then fit the halves together to get it on the platter on the table, smothered in savory Greek sauce.

The following summer Charlie wired us from the northwoods that he was sending us a fish, by express and frozen in ice. I went to the express office and received the long wooden case. When we opened the box and removed the ice, we discovered the fish all right. It was a 10-cent tin of sardines. The British have an odd sensayuma.

COMING UP, IN FLASHBACK

Lack of space prevents publication of other"Campus Memories" in this issue. However, we have in preparation other memories that will appear in our next number. These include "Senior Walk" (with some interesting pictures), "Miss Arkansas Travelers" of bygone years, Gray and Hill halls (both doomed), and others. We also have letters and notes from old-timers, pertaining to the operation of certain UofA offices. We don't want to get involved in a libel suit, so we are scanning these carefully. The same caution goes for our TNE file.

This isn't definite, but I think the lead article in our next FLASH-BACK will be on "The Bill Fulbrights of Rabbit's Foot Lodge." Rabbit's Foot was a coupla miles west of Springdale and the Senator was just a contented country squire. In fact, the article will be illustrated with my own photographs, of Senator Bill and his pure-bred Black Angus cattle and his Poland-China hogs.

ANOTHER OLD HOME GIVES WAY TO PROGRESS

When the home of the late Mary Lou Davies on N. College avenue was being torn down recently, workmen discovered a large opening under the front part of the house. The hole was about 7 feet across and 47 feet deep (down to solid rock). Our first report was that there were passages ("prongs") running out from the subterranean chamber, which might indicate that this was part of the entrench ents built by Federal troops in 1864. However, an examination of the site by two of our WCHS officers and a further examination of a contemporary map revealed that this could not hav eeen a part of the Civil War fortifications. The 1864 entrenchments ran from what is now the Boston Store corner, in a diagonal line to what is now the Hatfield car lot at the corner of College and Dickson. This line missed what were later the Davies and Logan properties. The Davies hole-in-the-ground was evidently a well or a cistern.

Mrs. Pat Donat of our Society, who is on the staff of the Northwest Arkansas Times, published an account of the Davies house on Jan. 22. She quotes good wuthorites (Mrs. G.A. Vincenheller who lived with the the Davies while she was attending the University, and Bob Logan who lived next door. Mrs. Donat mentioned a family cemetery in that block, between College avenue and East street, just back of the Davies property. This was the Smithson family burying ground. Bryan Smithson was one of the early political and social leaders of Fayetteville.

The next old home to go -- it is now for sale -- will probably be the Futrall house, located across College avenue from the Davies home.

- wcjs -

Our Society gets many letters from folks who are searching for their northwest Arkansas ancestors. Some of them, from Oregon and Idaho and California, have made the long trip to Arkansas, and we have given them all the assistance we could. But genealogy is a labor of love, and love runs low when our bank account is depleted. So, we suggest that if you want copies of records (wills, deeds, marriages,etc.) you send check to the WCHS. Nobody in our Society gets paid for his work for the Society, but individuals seeking genealogical help, should be willing to pay for copying the records.

- wchs -

NEWS AND NOTES

Fayetteville's recent zero weather reminded one of our members, Miss Etha Johnson of the record low temperature in 1930. Miss Johnson was secretary to President J.C.Futrall at the time. She writes:

> President Futrall was in Washington, D.C. in January 1930, attending a meeting of the Land Grant College Association. On a particular day while he was there, the temperature in Fayetteville dropped to 23 below zero, the lowest in the whole U.S. I really enjoy the news in Flashback and I know others do too.

- wchs -

My 1966 dues enclosed. I enjoy the Flashback very much, although it has not had any definite information on the family lines I am trying to tie together. Am still trying to find something about John Wesley Davis, b in Fayetteville Dec. 19, 1840; Solomon Davis, b Jan. 1799 in Pike Co., Ark.; Winifred Freeman, b in Fayetteville Sept. 1876 (?). I welcome any information concerning them. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. W. O. Scott,
222 W.Oak, Skiatook, Okla. 74070

- wchs -

In 1870 the family of my Gr-grandparents owned a farm in Clear Creek Township, Fayetteville PO District of Washington Co.,Ark. Isaac (Ike) Lynch was the father, and his wife was Sarilda Mayfield Lynch. They had these children: John, James, Isabella (Belle), Hiram, Everette, (Bud), and Lilly May Lynch. Later on, about 1880, they migrated to Madison Co., Ark. I need any information about where Isaac and Sarilda were born or where they lived prior to their moving to your county.

Mrs. Mary K. Johnson,
21724 Placeritos Blvd., Newhall, Calif. 91321

- wchs -

We have a number of letters and manuscripts that will have to wait for our April issue. Among them are Mrs.Louallen Fine of Lincoln,Ark., Lucile Morris Upton of Springfield, Mo.; Gen. Lee B. Washbourne of Jay, Okla., Mrs. Tressa Fussell of Springdale; Mrs.W.S.Liebolt, of Oklahoma city, Drew W. Castle of Joliet, Ill.; Mrs. Margaret S. Stolzer of Tulsa; James M. Carselowey of Adair, Okla; and others.

- wchs -

The December 1965 issue of "International Finders", published by the International Genealogical Research Foundation, Provo, Utah, contains the magazine's annual directory of genealogists, historical societies and libraries. Arkansas is well represented. Our WCHS is given prominent mention, including list of our books that are still available: Walker, Hermann, Wilson, Greer, and Tontitown. One of the objectives of the Foundation is to locate missing heirs. Our members may consult the magazine at our WCHS office, 12½ E.Center St., Fayetteville.

- wchs -

Our Board of Directors will meet March 1, to plan activities for 1966. Included are suggestions for conducted tours of the county's historic spots, erection of historic markers, reprinting the Goodspeed and Campbell histories, etc. We will be pleased to receive additional suggestions. Address the secretary: Deane G. Carter, WCHS, Box 237, Fayetteville, Ark.

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